

U.N. team examines Iraqi equipment

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. inspectors hunting for evidence of an Iraqi nuclear weapons programme examined equipment for enriching uranium Monday. David Kay, chief inspector for the team, said the equipment has been used to enrich uranium for the production of nuclear weapons. Kay said the equipment has been used to enrich uranium for the production of nuclear weapons. Kay said the equipment has been used to enrich uranium for the production of nuclear weapons.

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Turkish troops kill 3 Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Three separatist Kurdish rebels have been killed during clashes with security forces in southeast Turkey, local officials said Monday. Troops killed one rebel in a clash Saturday with members of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) near the town of Semdinli on the Iraqi border, the regional governor's office said in a statement. It said the bodies of two other rebels were found near the towns of Sirvan and Pervari in Siirt province after separate nighttime clashes over the weekend. More than 3,000 people including civilians have been killed in PKK attacks and battles with security forces in the region since 1984, when separatists launched a violent independence campaign.

Studies to set up nuclear reactor in UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — In an article published Monday, an energy official argued the oil-rich United Arab Emirates should consider nuclear energy. He disclosed that feasibility studies had been made for construction of reactors. Najmuddin Hammoudi said that the two studies provided the technical and economic feasibility of constructing nuclear reactors in the United Arab Emirates as an alternate source for energy even though the country is one of the major world oil producers. Mr. Hammoudi is ambassador at the UAE foreign ministry and member of the country's National Energy Committee. UAE oil reserves are estimated at about 100 billion barrels.

Iraqi Kurdish leader in Britain

LONDON (R) — A prominent Iraqi Kurdish leader said Monday he had come to Britain to seek British government protection for Kurds in Iraq and support for Kurdish autonomy. Jalal Talabani, joint leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front coalition of Kurdish groups, said in a statement. "I am also seeking the support of the British government for our programme of democracy for all Iraq and autonomy for Kurdistan," Mr. Talabani, who is also head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), arrived in Britain two days ago and is due to meet Prime Minister John Major Tuesday.

Fire engulfs Tehran's old bazaar

NICOSIA (AP) — A fierce fire engulfed the central part of Tehran's Grand Bazaar Monday, state-run Tehran Radio reported. The radio said the blaze was brought under control seven hours later. It did not say what the damage was. The Grand Bazaar is a sprawling warren of narrow covered alleys constantly crowded with jostling shoppers and porters pushing wheelbarrows heavily laden with merchandise. The bazaar is divided into specific sections. Shopkeepers sitting cross-legged in their open-fronted shops offer wares ranging from jewelry to spices and foodstuffs, carpets, clothing, shoes, household goods, tools and a multitude of other items.

Former guerrilla takes power in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (R) — Former guerrilla leader Sardar Abdul Qayyum took power in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir Monday after controversial elections which his opponents say were rigged. Mr. Qayyum, 67, took the oath as prime minister of the territory called Azad (Free) Kashmir in the state capital of Muzaffarabad. He ignored protests from opponents who say regional elections last month were massively rigged. The official AFP news agency quoted Mr. Qayyum as saying in a speech to the legislative assembly that India should immediately stop its "unprovoked war against Pakistan and Kashmir." It was a reference to India's crackdown against separatist militants fighting its rule over two-thirds of Kashmir.

Focus turns to Mideast on eve of Moscow summit

Soviets strike a warning note, call for peace conference before end of this year

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Middle East seized the spotlight on the eve of a superpower summit with the Soviet Union calling Monday for a peace conference between Israel and the Arabs before the end of the year.

As U.S. President George Bush headed for Moscow for a summit billed as the first of the post-cold war era, Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said any further delay on Middle East talks could throw up fresh obstacles.

Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will sign a landmark strategic weapons treaty, but for once the focus looks set less on arms control than on solving regional crisis and helping the Soviet Union out of its economic quagmire.

Mr. Bessmertnykh issued a veiled warning on the Middle East to both a reluctant Israel and an optimistic United States, saying that if the conference was pushed back until 1992 "certain problems can arise."

He was quoted by TASS news agency as telling reporters before holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker the time was ripe to bring Israel and the Arabs together for their first direct talks in four decades of

conflict. Israel, under pressure to accept U.S. terms for peace talks already agreed to by Arab states, said Monday it would wait until Mr. Baker returned to the Middle East after the summit in a bid to break deadlock over who represents the Palestinians.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Bessmertnykh had met for an hour. Earlier, Mr. Bessmertnykh told reporters he would consider going to the Middle East with Mr. Baker, if that might produce progress in setting up a conference.

When asked if there would be a joint trip, Mr. Baker said: "We did not take a decision."

"I'm not prepared to speculate on that. We've got a lot more talking to do," he said.

Mr. Baker told reporters there was "a degree of convergent views, and we'll be discussing with our respective presidents." Speculation has faded that Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev could announce a time and venue for the conference although Soviet officials said they were still hopeful.

Mr. Baker in his talks with Mr. Bessmertnykh said the window of opportunity for Middle East peace was still open "but we need

good will and good faith on the part of those directly concerned if we are going to take advantage of this."

Kremlin spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said earlier that the issue of peace in the Middle East was expected to be "further pursued here in Moscow."

Asked whether Mr. Gorbachev thought a peace conference should be convened soon, Mr. Ignatenko replied, "of course, the convening of this conference is timely. The time is ripe."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said that a peace conference "is going to be discussed by the two ministers, and of course it is going to be discussed quite thoroughly by the two presidents, and they are going to make that decision," on whether to issue invitations to a peace conference.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a message Sunday to President Gorbachev stating his organisation's stance on Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The agency said Mr. Arafat also sent a message to Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh, in response to an "important" mes-

sage he received from Mr. Bessmertnykh the previous day.

Palestinian leaders have been meeting in Tunis since Wednesday to consider their response to the U.S. plan for a conference.

Jamal Al Sourani, secretary-general of the PLO Executive Committee, said Sunday that Palestinians would boycott talks unless Washington and Moscow sent the PLO a formal invitation.

Mr. Baker arrived in Moscow hours before Bush flew in for the two-day summit. The formal centerpiece will be the signing of a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), slashing superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles and bombers.

The two leaders hope the treaty will mark the end of 40 years of frenetic military competition, leaving them free to cooperate on sorting out the world's trouble spots and turning the Soviet Union into a democratic, free-market state.

"This is the first post-cold war summit in a sense," Mr. Bush told reporters in Washington Sunday.

START, a complex document of some 600 pages crafted by negotiators in Geneva over the

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Some of the arms and ammunition and explosives seized from an underground group by security forces (Petra photos)

Clandestine group to go on public trial

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of a clandestine group arrested by the security forces will be tried at the state security court on charges of committing several attacks and acquiring firearms for the purpose of assassinating Jordanian and foreign personalities, Interior Minister Jawad Al Shoul said Monday.

"The crimes committed by the group are considered as directed against national security and therefore the cases will be tried by the state security court in line with the existing laws in the Kingdom," Mr. Shoul told Jordan Television.

The minister said the process of interrogating the suspects was

almost over and the trials could begin in the next two weeks. Jordan Television showed a cache of arms and ammunition, hand grenades and explosives seized by the security forces from the group.

The authorities said last week that the group, which went under the name "Holy Warriors in the Name of God" and "The Prophet Mohammad's Army," was responsible for two car bomb attacks which seriously injured a police officer and a 12-year-old girl as well as bomb attacks on banks and other targets.

New York grand jury, Fed launch moves against BCCI

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A New York grand jury returned an indictment charging that the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and two of its founders engaged in a multi-billion-dollar scheme to defraud its depositors, state prosecutors said Monday.

New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said that the indictment named Agha Hasan Abedi, who founded the bank in 1972, and Swaleh Naqvi, who is the bank's chief operating officer until October 1990.

The Federal Reserve meanwhile announced it was seeking a \$200 million fine against BCCI and an order barring nine people tied to the bank from involvement with U.S. banking organisations.

The Fed announcement came as Mr. Morgenthau disclosed the indictment of BCCI on charges of defrauding investors, falsifying records and stealing more than \$30 million.

"This indictment spells out the largest bank fraud in world financial history," Mr. Morgenthau said.

The Fed said its enforcement proceeding is "based on evidence of secret arrangements that were

Paris to push for urgent easing of Iraq sanctions

PARIS (Agencies) — France planned Monday to undertake consultations with fellow U.N. Security Council members on urgently easing the embargo against Iraq to end shortages of food and medicine.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Maurice Gourdault-Montagne said in a daily briefing that France was basing its action on a recent report evoking the possible risk of famine in Iraq.

The talks will be aimed at introducing "a resolution to improve supplies reaching the Iraqi civilian population by an easing of the embargo under the direct control of the U.N.," he said.

The French position is based on a report last week by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, coordinator of U.N. aid to the Gulf, that the sanctions could provoke a famine in Iraq by autumn.

The prince urged the council to partly lift the ban it imposed last year during the Gulf crisis on sales of Iraqi oil abroad. The income could be used only to purchase food and medicine.

The council last Thursday began examining a proposal for such a resolution, but U.N. diplomats suggested it would not be ready for a vote before the end of August.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya with her fiance Nasser Sami Joudeh (Petra photo)

Princess Sumayya to wed Nasser Joudeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya, daughter of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and members of the Royal family, was engaged Monday to Nasser Sami Joudeh, the Royal Court announced. The Minister Taher Masri, Dr. Sami Joudeh and announcement said the engagement took place in the presence of His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and members of the Royal family. The engagement was also attended by Prime Minister Taysir Salameh and members of the Joudeh family.

Shamir awaits Baker's visit to remove 'obstacles' to peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday that Israel had not accepted an invitation to a peace conference, but he thinks the remaining obstacles could be removed during another visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Shamir's comment came shortly after Foreign Minister David Levy said he expected Mr. Baker to return for a sixth Middle East peace shuttle "in the next few days."

However, Mr. Levy did not specify when Mr. Baker might arrive, and Mr. Shamir did not make a definite statement on the secretary's plans in his remarks to an Israeli Radio reporter.

"If, for example, Mr. Baker comes in the coming days, I suppose that it will be possible to conclude during his visit all the things which are delaying opening the conference," Mr. Shamir said.

He added: "In our opinion it is possible to conclude them, but he of course will have to talk to others."

Mr. Shamir said, however, that Israel still had not decided how to reply when asked what the response would be should his government receive an invitation to a peace conference from U.S. President George Bush.

"It depends on what is written. I don't think that invitations will be sent without first talking about them to those invited," he said on the radio.

Mr. Baker, in Moscow for a superpower summit that begins Tuesday, said he had discussed making a new trip to the Middle East with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh. He said Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would take up that issue on Wednesday.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, questioned by ABC-TV on Sunday on whether Israel has accepted the U.S. initiative, responded: "At this stage of the game, I consider that to be no more than a formality."

But Israel, before offering a formal response, is waiting for Mr. Baker to first provide a list of Palestinian delegates that would

exclude anyone from Arab Jerusalem or with connections to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Shamir again ruled out negotiating with Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem.

The question of who should speak for the Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied territories has become Mr. Baker's biggest hurdle.

"There is no room for compromise on this issue," Mr. Shamir told reporters.

He said Israel wanted answers from Mr. Baker about the composition of the Palestinian delegation. If the list was acceptable a conference could take place soon, he said.

Mr. Baker would arrive from the summit in Moscow where the U.S. and Soviet leaders are expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts, although they are unlikely to issue invitations to a conference.

President Bush had hoped for an Israeli response before the

(Continued on page 5)

Amnesty calls on Israel to end torture of Palestinian detainees

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International urged Israel Tuesday to end what it called the routine torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees and said it was disturbed at reports of secret official endorsement of physical abuse.

The human rights group said detainees were regularly hooded with dirty sacks and deprived of food or sleep, usually by being shackled in painful positions, while held in solitary confinement. They are also frequently beaten all over their bodies, including on their genitals, and held in rooms so small and dark detainees call them "coffins" or ones so cold they are called "refrigerators."

This is done to punish or to extract information or confessions.

"What's extremely disturbing is that there are actually secret official guidelines allowing 'moderate physical pressure' during interrogation," Amnesty International said. These guidelines were initially formulated by a commission of inquiry into interrogation practices headed by Justice Moshe Landau and endorsed by the government 1987.

"We believe either that the government endorses these interrogation practices, which amount to torture or ill-treatment, or that interrogators have been routinely violating official guidelines as well as international standards which prohibit all torture and ill-treatment," Amnesty International said.

"Either way, the government needs to urgently address the problem, including by publishing the secret guidelines."

There is clearly a pattern of torture or ill-treatment in Israel and the occupied territories," Amnesty International said. "Detainees are particu-

larly vulnerable to such treatment when they are cut off from the outside world."

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lars are often the main evidence against defendants and judges appear reluctant to investigate claims of coerced statements. In many cases, judges and prosecutors place improper pressure on people to plead guilty in exchange for a lesser sentence, as a way to finish trials as quickly as possible.

As Amnesty International delegate who observed military court trials in the occupied territories witnessed a graphic illustration of such problems during a trial in Hebron (Al Khalfi) in November 1990.

A young man, "Aziz 'Ashah, charged with throwing stones, was brought into court with obvious injuries suggesting he had been tortured — his shirt was torn and bloody, there were open wounds on his left arm and chest and his right thigh was black and blue with bruises. He claimed he had confessed because he was beaten and kicked, yet the judge said he was only interested in finishing the case that day and if the defendant agreed he would get a lighter sentence. The defendant in the end decided to plead guilty and received a suspended prison sentence and a fine.

"Many defendants give in because they know there is no effective way to challenge a confession in court," Amnesty International said. "If they insist on a full trial they may well face a harsher sentence in the long run and spend more time

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Israeli public supports peace talks and partial withdrawal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis overwhelmingly support U.S. peace plans and some form of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip though most would never give up Arab Jerusalem or the Golan Heights, according to opinion polls.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government failed Sunday to meet Washington's request to formally announce its acceptance of Middle East peace talks before a U.S.-Soviet summit this week.

In two opinion polls published last week more than 70 per cent of respondents said Israel should agree to take part in talks.

In addition, some 80 per cent of the public would give up Gaza and 70 per cent would yield at least some of the West Bank. Professor Elihu Katz, director of the Guttman Institute of Applied Science, told Reuters.

He based his findings on polls conducted by his institute.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has vowed never to trade land for peace.

But Prof. Katz said Israelis backed their headline government on the Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem.

Mr. Shamir has said he will not respond to U.S. peace proposals until assured a Palestinian delegation to the talks will not include Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem. He says this would put in doubt Israeli "sovereignty" over the entire city.

Ninety per cent of the public believe Israel should keep the eastern sector of Jerusalem and 80 per cent support keeping the Golan Heights, Prof. Katz said.

Most Israelis believe that withdrawal from the Golan would endanger northern settlements sheltered by Syria before the war.

Though Israelis differ with their hawkish prime minister on giving up land, they would vote for his Likud party if national elections occurred today.

"While there is a majority now for territorial compromise, you ask people how they're going to vote, they'll say Likud and there's no relation between the two," said Judith Elizur, an expert in communications and international relations at Hebrew University.

"It (support for Likud) is not a surprise to me... everyone is afraid, even the doves," said

Mina Tzemach, chairwoman of Dahaf Research Institute, whose survey last week showed 78 per cent of 504 people would say "yes" to peace talks.

Ms. Elizur said the world saw Israel on television either as David or Goliath. Israel's dilemma resulted from living both realities.

The world saw Israel as the Middle East's bully when soldiers appeared on television fighting stone-throwers in the 43-month-long Palestinian uprising. It admired the Jewish state as it weathered Iraqi Scuds, Ms. Elizur said.

"Because we don't forget either thing he keeps vacillating between thinking we're strong and we're weak," she said.

It was easy for politicians to exploit the public's constant vacillation between fear and hubris, the experts said.

"Especially when you have a government interested in playing up every knife attack, it's hard not to be paranoid," Ms. Elizur said.

Prof. Katz said: "The population is very responsive to leadership on these issues."

Velayati's Afghan mission falters

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Iranian attempt to coax Mujahadeen guerrillas to go along with a United Nations peace plan for Afghanistan was postponed Monday with three headline rebel leaders failing to show up for the meeting.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry gave no reason for the setback and said talks between the Iranians, Pakistanis and the guerrillas would begin Tuesday.

A spokesman for Younus Khatib, leader of a fundamentalist faction, told Reuters earlier: "We cannot accept the terms of this conference."

But other guerrilla sources said disputes had also broken out between Iran-based Mujahadeen, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, and Pakistan-based guerrillas who are predominantly Sunni.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived on his peace mission Sunday, was hoping to bring the quarrelsome guerrilla factions closer together and push them towards a U.N. peace plan.

Iran and Pakistan, along with the United States, have been the main backers of the Mujahadeen through 13 years of war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

But exasperated by the Mujahadeen's lack of battlefield progress and concerned by the presence of five million Afghan refugees within their borders, they have begun to push for a negotiated settlement.

"How can we sit down and negotiate with those who have killed a million and a half of their own people," said Mr. Khatib's spokesman Abdul Kabir, referring to Kabul.

"No matter who is involved (in the peace process) — the United Nations, America, Pakistan or Iran — we will not participate," he said.

The U.N. framework calls for a ceasefire and transitional administration leading to elections, but the Mujahadeen insist on the removal of President Najibullah as a precondition to their participation.

The fundamentalist factions have pledged to fight on for a military victory which would allow them to set up an Islamic government. They have accused Washington of abandoning them because of its new post-cold war relationship with Moscow.

Iran and Pakistan had hoped the top leaders of 11 moderate and fundamentalist factions would attend the two days of talks.

In addition to Mr. Khatib, the powerful Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Abdurrahman Sayyaf also stayed away, sending only representatives.

Afghan government forces fired Scud missiles and launched air strikes against Mujahadeen positions near the eastern city of Jalalabad, the main guerrilla news agency said Monday.

Missiles hit the Jalalabad highway Saturday and planes bombed several districts, causing an unknown number of casualties, Mida said.

Heavy fighting was still under way between the guerrillas and government soldiers backed by tanks. It also reported clashes 10 kilometres east of the capital Kabul Sunday.

The Mujahadeen also claimed to have driven government forces out of northern Takhar province, bordering the Soviet Union, after seizing three districts last week.

A regimental commander and 1,200 militiamen had surrendered, Mida said.

The guerrillas were attacking Qalat, capital of southern Zabul province, it added.

Asian workers eager to return to Gulf

MANILA (R) — Tens of thousands of Asian workers driven from their jobs by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war are knocking on recruiters' doors, eager to cash in on a reconstruction bonanza.

Facing soaring unemployment at home, Asian job-seekers and governments are lobbying for contracts to rebuild war-wrecked areas in Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

The war triggered by the invasion of Kuwait a year ago forced about 500,000 Asians working in the Middle East to leave.

Most are eager to return, dreaming of better jobs than they can get at home. But there are more applicants than jobs — and the list of job-seekers from the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh grows longer by the day.

"Our workers are very impatient, that's understandable, but Kuwait is still trying to put its life back in order," said Chona Siemas, a Philippines planning officer.

These are the prospects, as seen from Asian countries:

India — about 25,000 Indian workers forced home by the war have come back to Kuwait. Some 172,000 Indians were working in the emirate before the invasion, and 20,000 stayed on, Bombay recruiting agent Ashit Mehta said.

"Opportunities are ample... the government should encourage Indians to go to the Gulf, especially because of the balance of payment crisis India is facing," said Joe Mathews, a spokesman for the Association of Kuwaiti Indians based in Bangalore.

"Things are not too bad. Five or six flights a week are leaving Bombay, full of Indians returning to Kuwait," he said.

Bangladesh, which contributed troops to the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq, hopes to send back all 56,000 Bangladeshi workers who fled the emirate during the war, said Rafiqul Islam Miah, the state minister for labour and manpower.

"We hope that all the people will be re-employed by the Kuwaiti state and private employers very soon," he said.

Only 5,500 Bangladeshis, mostly new recruits, have found work in Kuwait since the war ended, he added.

The Philippines is also eager to send workers to the Middle East to boost its foreign exchange reserves.

About 500,000 Filipinos were working in the Middle East before the Gulf crisis broke out, sending home \$3 billion a year, officials said.

Of more than 300,000 Filipinos, mostly from Kuwait, who returned home to escape the war, only a few thousands have been rehired, Manila figures show. Thousands are waiting for their applications to be processed.

"The reason is almost the same for everybody — economic. They said they simply can't make both ends meet if they work here," said Gemma Panganiban, of the Philippine Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration.

Philippine unemployment soared to a seven-year high of 15.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1991.

The eruption by the Mount Pinatubo volcano last month and the U.S. decision to leave the volcano-damaged Clark Air Base will worsen the unemployment situation.

Officials said the volcano deprived more than 600,000 Filipinos of their sources of income and 25,000 other workers face dislocation with the impending closure of Clark.

Pakistan, which had 45,000 workers in Kuwait before the invasion, is also waiting to cash in on reconstruction boom. It lost about \$1.2 billion in unrealised remittances and higher oil import costs as a result of the war.

Thousands of Pakistanis are applying at the Kuwaiti embassy to get their jobs back but it is not known when they can leave.

Sri Lanka lost hundreds of millions of dollars in remittances after 70,000 of its 100,000 workers in Kuwait returned home. Most were housemaids.

Sri Lankan Labour Ministry officials said only 2,000 workers had gone back to their jobs in the emirate.

"We are losing between \$100 and \$150 million a year by way of falling remittances," a treasury official said.

But Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra is optimistic. "There is a special demand for our people there," he said.

Thousands of Thai workers are also queuing up for Middle East jobs, but prospects appear to have been clouded by a diplomatic problem with Saudi Arabia, where 140,000 Thais were previously employed.

Riyadh stopped processing visas for Thais in February 1990 until the murders of three Saudi diplomats were solved.

Kuwait discharges 14 high-ranking officers

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The government has approved the forced retirement of 14 military officers in its first public step towards redressing the army's failure to cope with the Iraqi invasion, a Kuwaiti official was quoted Monday as saying.

Dhari Al Othman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, told the Arabic daily Al Watan that the dismissals were approved Sunday at a meeting of the council of ministers, made up of all 21 cabinet members.

"This step aims at developing the capabilities of the defence forces and reorganising the military institution," Mr. Othman said.

He did not release any names, but said the discharged officers included majors, majors general and colonels. He said that all were forced to retire.

The decision comes after a number of high-ranking Kuwaiti officers circulated at least two petitions saying they would quit if post-Gulf war restructuring of the military does not include leadership changes. They are angry

that Kuwait's 20,300-man armed forces failed to put up much resistance when Iraqi forces invaded last Aug. 2.

They could not have defeated Iraq's troops, but disgruntled officers believe that with better leadership they could have resisted long enough for world reaction to rise and made Iraq hesitate.

The petitions have called for an investigation and removal, if necessary, of the army chief of staff, his senior staff and up to 20 generals and 75 colonels.

The minister of defence, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salim, previously said he wanted to force some officers from the military and "pump new blood" into the forces.

Asked if the United States was going to set up a permanent military base in Kuwait, Mr. Othman said: "We reaffirm what his highness, the crown prince, said in his speech at the opening of the National Council (that) the government will not hesitate to take any measures to protect Kuwait's internal and external security."

Leader of Turkish opposition party reelected

ANKARA (R) — Erdal Inonu was reelected chairman of Turkey's main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) early Monday, party officials said. Mr. Inonu, 65, won 534 of a total 985 votes cast to defeat his opponent, SHP Secretary-General Deniz Baykal, at the end of a party congress which started Saturday. Mr. Inonu's father Ismet was a close aide of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish republic, and succeeded him as president. The SHP holds 82 of parliament's 450 seats.

Turkish Cypriots occupy beaches in protest

NICOSIA (R) — Scores of Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated on beaches around the northern resort of Kyrenia, protesting at entry fees levied by recession-hit hotels. Hotel owners are charging 2.00-5.00 lire (50 cents to \$1.25) per person to cover the cost of cleaning and maintaining the beaches. Picnics are banned and bathers are encouraged to buy snacks and soft drinks from the hotels. Tourism in the Eastern Mediterranean was hit hard by the Gulf crisis. North Cyprus has also suffered from the collapse of Polly Peck International, run by Turkish-Cypriot born magnate Asil Nadir, which ran several hotels in the breakaway state.

Turkish Cypriots wanting to escape temperatures approaching 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in Nicosia have to drive three times the usual distance for a free bath. "Under the constitution, citizens can enjoy the sea and sand freely," said Social Democrat Party leader Ergun Vehbi, who led a demonstration in front of Kyrenia's Mermaid Hotel Sunday.

Israeli admitted to U.N. European body

GENEVA (R) — Israel has won admission to the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in a rare vote in favour of the Jewish state, the Israeli and U.S. missions announced Monday. The U.N. Economic and Social Council voted last Friday to allow Israel into the ECE even though Israel geographically is in Asia.

Israel had been effectively excluded from the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia since 1973. "It clearly represents a shift in voting patterns, a shift in alliances and relationships, because we've never been able to obtain this sort of vote with a benefit toward Israel," U.S. delegate Edward Marks said. He said the Arab bloc had always been able to muster a majority for any vote it was interested in. Several Eastern European and developing countries, which often voted against Israel in the past, voted for this time. The ECE, which groups all European countries and the United States and Canada, seeks to improve economic relations among its members.

Turk commits suicide in prison cell

CAIRO (R) — A 70-year-old Turkish prisoner who had received no visitors for five years hanged himself in an Egyptian prison Monday, security sources said. Guards found the body of Taleb Bekir, who was serving a 25-year sentence with hard labour for smuggling drugs into Egypt, hanging from the ceiling of his cell at the Qanater prison, north of Cairo. He was due to be released in 2003.

Egypt, Kuwait to set up joint airline company

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt and Kuwait Sunday signed an agreement to establish a joint airline company with a capital of \$100 million. The company will begin operation at the end of the year to transport passengers and cargo between the two countries. Mohammed Fahim Rayan, the chairman of Egyptair, said the new company would absorb the excess in air movements between the two countries and enable his firm and the Kuwaiti airline to compete with hiring planes from other companies. No further details were available immediately.

Court delays building VoA transmitter

TEL AVI (R) — Israel's supreme court Monday delayed the building of a powerful Voice of America (VoA) transmitter until an environmental impact study was completed. The Israeli society for the Protection of Nature asked the supreme court last year to block construction of the VoA's 43-antenna transmitter in the desert until thorough environmental research was carried out. "It is a great victory," said Yoav Saguy, spokesman for the society. "We were confronted by a lot of pressure from the Israeli government and the U.S. government and now we are encouraged by the court's decision." Environmentalists argued the billion-dollar transmitter would upset the migration of millions of birds between Asia, Africa and Europe. The relay station was intended to beam VoA and Radio Liberty broadcasts to Central and Southern Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. It was to be built on the site of a military training zone which was to be moved to a nature reserve area. Environmentalists estimate it will take at least 18 months to conduct a detailed survey on migration through the area and study the impact of relocating the training site.

Iraqi case raises questions about who else is seeking nuclear arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The discovery of Iraq's secret advances in nuclear knowhow is prompting private analysts to question whether Western intelligence agencies know the extent of atomic weapons ambitions elsewhere in the world.

Many countries besides Iraq are believed to be attempting clandestinely to acquire nuclear weapons, which some see as the ultimate symbol of military power.

And while Iraq was not among the most advanced of those seeking the knowledge, it apparently was closer to gaining crucial bomb ingredients than any outsiders knew.

"We need to take a serious look at the nuclear capabilities of a whole range of countries," said Tyrus Cobb, president of Business Executives for National Security, a non-profit group that studies ways to halt the spread of nuclear arms.

Mr. Cobb and other analysts and government officials said in interviews that during the cold war, the United States and its allies paid too little attention to nuclear developments in the Third World. The Soviet Union was the overriding focus.

As a result, numerous countries were able to pursue nuclear weapons programmes secretly even though the 142-nation Non-Proliferation Treaty, which took effect in 1970, outlaws trade in nuclear arms and technologies. Iraq and some other countries believed to be seeking nuclear weapons have signed the treaty.

Only five countries admit to having nuclear weapons: The Soviet Union, China, Britain, France and the United States, which invented the technology

during the secret Manhattan project that produced the world's first atomic bomb in 1945.

Neither France nor China has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, although France recently said it would.

Paradoxically, the renewed concern about the spread of nuclear weapons technology comes as the two nuclear superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are about to begin reducing their strategic nuclear arsenals for the first time since the atomic arms race began more than 40 years ago.

President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev are to sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in Moscow this week.

As part of the grand political bargain that led to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the nuclear "haves" pledged to the "have nots" that they would negotiate reductions in their arsenals, eventually to reach total nuclear disarmament. Up to this point, however, nuclear arsenals have grown instead of shrinking.

American weapons experts say it is almost certain that Israel, India, Pakistan and South Africa have the ability to assemble one or more nuclear weapons on short notice or have already built a small nuclear arsenal.

Israel is probably the most advanced of the undeclared nuclear powers. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a leading authority on nuclear proliferation, estimates that Israel has 60 to 100 nuclear devices, plus the ballistic missiles to deliver them at least 650 kilometres beyond its borders.

A second group — Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Brazil, Argentina and Libya — are widely believed to have taken steps towards building nuclear weapons or appear motivated to do so. None has openly stated a goal of acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Brazil and Argentina last November pledged jointly to forswear nuclear weapons. They agreed to ways of inspecting each other's peaceful nuclear programmes.

A key question raised by the Iraqi case, which has come to light since the end of the Gulf war, is whether intelligence agencies know how far other countries have come in developing the know-how and materials to build nuclear bombs.

Leonard Spector, an expert on the spread of nuclear weapons at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said he now wonders whether enough is known about nuclear advances in North Korea and other nations hostile to U.S. interests.

"A year ago I would have said yes, our intelligence was pretty good," he said. "Now I would have to say, I hope so."

Henry Sokolski, head of nuclear non-proliferation policy at the Pentagon, said the Bush administration is reassessing its views of other countries' nuclear ambitions.

"One of the things we ought to learn" from the Iraqi experience "is that we really need to learn a lot more about other people and the way they think," he said. That might help help government analysts anticipate nuclear developments sooner, he said.

A United Nations body, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is responsible for monitoring nuclear materials in countries that are party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. But it can inspect only those materials it knows about. So, as in Iraq, undeclared nuclear facilities are bound to go unchecked.

Perhaps the most deeply rooted obstacle to controlling the spread of nuclear weapons is the fact that some of the vital ingredients in atomic bombs can legitimately be produced or purchased for non-military purposes. For example, enriched uranium can be used as fuel for civilian nuclear reactors that generate electricity, or as fuel for imported research reactors.

The trick is stopping countries from diverting the nuclear materials to military uses.

(Continued on page 5)

3 SLA men killed in Amal ambush in Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese guerrillas ambushed a pro-Israeli militia patrol with a big bomb in South Lebanon Monday, killing three militiamen.

The South Lebanon Army (SLA), Israel's local ally, shelled nearby villages for two hours in reprisal.

Most recent attacks on Israeli forces and their allies in the area have been made by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah. Syria, supporting the post-civil war revival

of Lebanon's central government, has discouraged guerrilla raids.

The Amal militia, a Syrian-backed movement among Lebanon's Shiite Muslims which is more secular than the fundamentalist Hizbollah, issued a statement in Beirut claiming responsibility for Monday's ambush.

Hizbollah Secretary-General Abbas Musawi said Sunday that

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Documentary
18:30 Sixième Cauche
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ajourdu hai on Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
20:55 Missions in Jordan
21:10 Our House
22:00 News in English
22:30 Columbo

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:44 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 'Asr
19:39 Maghrib
21:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithel Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683236.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713311.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713361.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 28
Aqaba 24 / 37
Deserts 20 / 33
Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Saoud Tawfik 788285
Dr. Ayman Abdul Jabbar 614222
Dr. Anwar Agabawi 642696
Dr. Khalil Abdul Clader 793392
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Naimouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Radwan Al Saud (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rabah Al Borini (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 98417

REPAIRS:
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 623101
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-33200

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 021111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 626890
Press Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 667279
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 661646
Complaints 777103
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-33200

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Rahman Maternity 642812
Ibn Sina Maternity 642802
Mahar, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Mutashir Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutashir 777103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Amal Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)375555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)372275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247103
Aqaba:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:30 Aqaba (

Post offices to accept university applications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Students who passed the tawjihi examinations this year with at least a 65 per cent average crowded Monday at post offices to fill out applications to enrol at one of the four government universities in Jordan.

The Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation had earlier announced that 40 post offices in Jordan had been assigned to handle the applications and to issue forms to the students for a JD 15 fee.

During the week-long process, the post offices will forward the application forms to the concerned universities to be processed before the lists of accepted students can be announced.

The corporation has been carrying out this service for the past 12 years in order to facilitate the safe arrival of student applications and to save the applicants time and effort.

Sources had predicted that the four universities — the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology — will accept a total of 8,840 students for the coming 1991-92 academic year.

Out of about 63,000 tawjihi students only 51.9 per cent had passed this year. Not all of them are liable to be admitted to any university, but can enrol at community colleges.

GUVS, Lebanese organisations agree to seek greater cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and non-governmental charity organisations in Lebanon have signed a memorandum of understanding organising coordination and cooperation between the two sides, according to GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib.

Dr. Khatib said that the move was one step towards the establishment of the projected federation of non-governmental Arab organisations.

The memorandum provides for the exchange of expertise and information related to social development, voluntary activities and social welfare. It also calls for visits by voluntary and social service workers to either country in

coordinate humanitarian activities and work in voluntary and social fields. Dr. Khatib said in a statement following his return to Amman from Beirut.

He said that the two sides had agreed to hold periodic biennial meetings in Amman and Beirut to monitor and examine the voluntary and social services process and to work out joint plans of action.

Dr. Khatib attended a general meeting by Arab voluntary and charitable organisations in the Lebanese capital where it was agreed that a survey of all such organisations in the Arab World be conducted. Also, agreement was reached for Arab organisations to attend an international conference by non-governmental bodies to be held in Miami, U.S.

Radio call prompts King to act and help infants

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has instructed the director general of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, to purchase from foreign markets sufficient quantities of a special type of milk, now lacking in the Jordanian markets, for infants and contacted the Health Ministry to ensure that such commodity is made available as soon as possible.

The King's directive followed an appeal by the father of one of the infants through a call-in radio programme.

The man was reported to have urged the government to make available types of milk needed by infants lest they be exposed to malnutrition or die.

RJ Chairman Abu Ghazaleh called Radio Jordan for more details about the complaint and promised that RJ planes would bring in the needed amounts of milk.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh's call fol-

lowed that by King Hussein, who assured the radio programme that he was concerned and that a solution would be found soon.

The needed milk is called Isomil and, according to pharmacies in Amman, the local markets do not have this milk which used to be imported from the United Kingdom.

Pharmacy sources told the Jordan Times that the Health Ministry and a Jordanian agent were at odds about pricing the new shipment of Isomil milk brought in from other countries. Also quantities were found in a warehouse awaiting settlement to the pricing dispute.

They said that in a few days' time the market should have sufficient quantities provided the dispute had been settled.

Isomil, a special type of milk given to infants with allergies, used to be brought in from Britain. But the practice stopped after the appearance of cattle

diseases in British farms, the sources said.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, a number of Jordanian expatriates living abroad called Radio Jordan offering to supply the required quantities of milk free of charge through (RJ) offices abroad.

Petra said the King had told the Health Ministry that such types of milk should be considered as medicine rather than a type of food.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh has made contacts with RJ offices abroad to secure the required milk as soon as possible and, according to RJ sources, the first consignment will arrive here Tuesday. Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said that RJ planes would be shipping four tonnes of this type of milk free of charge until the local markets are stocked. He said that as the shipments are free, the price of this commodity should be lower than normal.

RJ to lease plane to Bolivia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, announced Monday that it was leasing one of its Airbus 310 planes to the Bolivian national airlines for two months.

Under the agreement with the Bolivian Airlines the latter will also hire the crew for the plane for each flight, but RJ will continue to be responsible for maintenance work.

According to the statement, the Bolivian airlines will operate the RJ plane on its network in central and southern American area and to Miami, Florida, in the U.S.

RJ Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh said last month that RJ was keen on constant

modernisation of its fleet of aircraft and leasing aircraft is one of the options open to the airline, like to all other airlines depending on expansion and modernisation plans.

But he denied that RJ was contemplating the idea of returning a number of its planes due to the current economic recession.

In another development, Monday RJ announced that it had concluded a training course, at its training department, for 96 pilots, co-pilots and engineers employed by the Turkish airlines. Training was done on Airbus planes at the Simulator Division at the Queen Alia International Airport.

The Turkish Airlines had expressed the desire of having its air pilots trained with RJ for two years, for at least 1,000 flying hours, as of October 1991, the statement noted. It said that the Turkish Airlines were contemplating the idea of offering this training to 140 of its staff and engineers.

The simulator training of non-Jordanian pilots earned RJ \$1.3 million in 1990, according to RJ officials.

They said that pilots trained at the simulator came from Turkey, France, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Germany and Nigeria. At present, they added, there are new contracts for training Tunisian and Algerian pilots.

Ministry considering setting up centre for training in electrical field

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply is considering setting up a national training centre offer services to the national economy, especially by training Jordanians in the electronic and electrical fields, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abdul Ragheb announced Monday.

"Such ideas and endeavours to open new markets abroad for Jordanian national products will be two main concerns for the ministry which plans to cooperate in this enterprise with the private sector," the minister said at a meeting in his office with the Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan and board members.

The minister emphasised the need for full cooperation between the Chamber of Industry and the Ministry of Industry to open new markets abroad, get jobs for skilled Jordanian workers and main-

tain quality control over all products.

Discussion at the meeting covered all fields where the chamber and the ministry can cooperate, with the minister stressing the fact that both parties shoulder equal shares, in promoting industry and bolstering the Jordanian economy.

Mr. Abdul Ragheb said that the government planned to facilitate government routine procedures, create an appropriate climate for investments, increase and improve opportunities for Jordanian workers and boost the Economic Consultative Council's role to become partner with the government in the decision-making process.

The government plans to introduce new laws on investments, imports and exports, the Jordanian Chambers of Industry and a law on guarantees for exports, the minister announced.

Mr. Abu Hassan presented to

the minister a number of demands and pledged the chamber's full cooperation with the government to safeguard national interests. He demanded that the government conduct immediate contacts with other concerned nations and international organisations, through diplomatic means, to stop harassment of ships in the Red Sea and delays of vessels heading towards the port of Aqaba.

Mr. Abu Hassan announced that Jordanian trade delegations would soon embark on visits to several countries in Asia and the Middle East with the purpose of opening new markets for Jordan's products.

He also demanded that Jordan start serious efforts towards ending inter-Arab differences, especially with the Gulf states and Jordan's partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), with a view to opening the door for Jordan's trade.

RSS project aims to develop sand moulding technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) currently embarks on a project aiming at utilising Jordanian sands and binding materials such as bentonite or resins as raw materials for the foundry industry. The project is also intended to develop the sand moulding technology in Jordan.

Sand moulding is responsible for many casting defects which pose real technical problems. Poor sand moulding technology is responsible for a loss of up to \$3 million in foreign currency a year.

This project is financed through a joint agreement between RSS and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The time needed for the completion of the project is estimated at two years. Actually, it has been in progress since August 1990. Its objectives could be summarised as follows:

1. To collect and evaluate in-use green and shell sand samples,

and bentonite from the local foundries and determine the current foundry practice.

2. To collect and evaluate representative sand samples and bentonite from identified locations.

3. To determine optimal sand mixtures (using local materials) suitable for green sand and core sand moulding and evaluate their performance through casting.

4. To determine optimal sand mixtures suitable for shell moulding and evaluate their performance through casting.

5. To carry out industrial scale trials at three locally selected foundries.

6. To produce a sand control practice manual for the use of the foundry industry and to provide technical data on the preparation of green and shell foundry sands to interested manufacturers.

7. To transfer this technology to local industry.

8. To build up the Jordanian expertise in sand field and contri-

bute to enhancing the new casting technologies.

This project is based on a study, the Foundry and Metallurgy Unit at RSS Mechanical Design and Technology Centre conducted earlier, to diagnose the problems of foundry sector.

The study showed that the most prevalent problems in this sector were related to the lack of homogeneity of the raw materials (mainly scrap), poor melting control practices, lack of sand control, and poor quality control of the finished products. This results in a 20 to 25 per cent rejection rate which means a low quality and a high price product.

The study concluded that increasing the productivity of the local foundry sector can only be achieved through the control of melt compositions, the use of appropriate melting practices, as well as the adoption of proper sand control procedures in moulding.

New travel restrictions to stem outflow of Iraqis

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The massive influx of Iraqis into Jordan which began in mid-May is soon expected to be restricted by new measures to be adopted by the Iraqi government, highly informed sources said Monday.

"The Iraqi government has informed Jordan that it is planning to impose a series of regulations aimed at reducing the flow of Iraqis leaving the country," said one of the sources.

According to the source, the Iraqi decision was conveyed to the Jordanian government by the governor of Al Anbar province, Jassam Mohammad Al Rakabi, who visited Jordan last week.

Mr. Rakabi held talks with Interior Minister Jawdat Al Esboul and other senior officials. No precise figure is available on the number of Iraqis who travelled to Jordan since mid-May when the Baghdad government lifted decade-old travel restrictions on Iraqi citizens.

Informed officials said this week an average of 1,000 Iraqis were coming across the border into Jordan while 750 to 800 were leaving the Kingdom every day. The officials could not provide any definite number of Iraqis remaining in Jordan, but independent sources have put the figure at around 50,000.

Jordan represents the only avenue for Iraqis to leave Iraq since their country's borders with Turkey, Iran and Syria remained closed. Baghdad airport was damaged in the Gulf war and part of the damages have been repaired, but the air blockade imposed on Iraq prevents the reopening of the airport for civilian passenger flights.

Travellers on the main

Baghdad-Amman road reported a significant increase in the number of Iraqis crossing into Jordan this week with hundreds of cars and buses clogging the border posts.

But suggestions that the rise could be due to renewed use of force by the American-led coalition against Iraq could not be clearly substantiated. Many Iraqis interviewed by the Jordan Times said they were seeking a short respite from the shortage of food and other essentials in their war-ravaged country which is under international sanctions imposed after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Others said they were waiting for reunion with family members living abroad or for word on their applications for visas to European countries or the U.S.

A few said they were worried over the possibility of allied attacks on Iraq's nuclear facilities but that was not the main factor behind their departure for Jordan.

"Many of us have relatives abroad who would like to send us money," said an Iraqi who identified himself only as Abdul Hamid. "We can't receive bank transfers in Iraq, and so we have to come to Amman to collect them through Jordanian banks," he said.

Among the measures expected to be adopted by the Iraqi government are a reimposition of mandatory exit permits for all Iraqis wishing to leave their country, insistence on a documented third country visa and limiting the number of family members who could leave the country in one group, sources told the Jordan Times.

It was not immediately known whether Jordan would exercise its option of reimposing visa restric-

tions for Iraqis crossing the border through Al Ruweished post. Under the statutes of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — which groups Jordan with Iraq, Egypt and Yemen — ACC nationals are exempt from visa regulations in all ACC member states.

International relief officials said the number of Iraqis formally seeking political refugee abroad was only "in tens."

"Most of the applicants want help to obtain visa for any of the European countries or the United States after failing to secure visa through proper channels — through the respective embassies in Amman," said a senior official of an international relief agency operating in Amman.

In the meantime, Iraqi guests crowd downtown hotels as well as some of the five-star establishments and apartments in and around Amman.

Entire families of eight or 10 are crammed into single rooms in downtown hotels, which serve as home for many for weeks.

Officials said the concerned authorities have been referring to the government all applications from Iraqi citizens to buy real estate — including apartments — in Jordan.

"Standing regulations stipulate that all such applications have to be approved by the Council of Ministers before the actual transaction is registered," said an official. "So far no approval has been granted," the official added.

Although heated arguments over their government's policies and practices are frequent among the Iraqis living in Jordan — as was witnessed during a visit to a downtown hotel — no "serious" law and order violations by the guests have been reported so far.

Longtime Jordanian journalist laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of the late Ibrahim Sakijha, a noted journalist who died in Amman of a heart attack, was laid to rest Monday after a funeral at the University of Jordan mosque.

His Majesty King Hussein delegated Minister of Information and Culture Khaled Karaki to attend the funeral in Sweileh and to convey his condolences to the bereaved family and to the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

Taking part in the funeral were ministers, Members-of-Parliament, JPA members, directors of information services and relatives of the late Mr. Sakijha.

Mr. Sakijha had worked for three Arabic dailies, Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab.

Mr. Sakijha was born in the city of Jaffa, Palestine, in 1926 and started his career in 1946. He had been an active writer and columnist until last April when he was forced to retire due to ill health.

Local journalists and columnists paid tribute in their articles to Mr. Sakijha.



Ibrahim Sakijha

In an obituary on his death, Chief Editor of Al Ra'i daily Mahinoud Al Kayed said that the late Mr. Sakijha was the true model of dedication and a servant of his country and nation. He said that Jordanian journalists would always remember Mr. Sakijha for his efforts and his services.



Family and friends attend the funeral of Ibrahim Sakijha (photo by Yusef Al Allan)

CONDOLENCES

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing away of veteran journalist

Ibrahim Sakijha

Father of their friend and colleague Basem Sakijha. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Handicraft exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

House to debate laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will hold a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The House is scheduled to discuss the defence draft law for 1990, several Central Bank of Jordan amended laws and the banks temporary law no. 5 for the year 1975. The House's Legal Committee met Monday under the chairmanship of Mr. Lawzi. The committee discussed the illegal profiteering law.

House Legal Committee discusses laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Legal Committee met Monday and discussed the national economy protection draft law for the year 1991, and a law pertaining to lifting martial law for 1991. The committee will resume discussion of the laws Tuesday morning and will discuss the state court law of 1991 and the higher court of justice temporary law for 1989.

MUSIC & DANCE AT THE AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL



THE FABULOUS "SUPER SONIC" BAND IS ONCE AGAIN PERFORMING AT AL RABABA NIGHTCLUB WHERE THE BEST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN TOWN CONTINUES NIGHTLY UNTIL 2:00 am. DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AND MOVE TO THE BEAT WITH THE NEWLY ARRIVED POLISH GROUP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL AT 660100 EXT. 2001.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Peace — concept and chance

JORDAN HAS made clear over the years that it seeks a just and lasting peace. Just for all; Arabs, Israelis and especially Palestinians. And lasting because Jordan believes that unless the peace lasts it will defy its purpose. And the purpose of peace, any peace, has always been the well-being of people. And the people of the Middle East, after decades of wars, turmoil and hatred, deserve peace. They need to divert their resources from machines of destruction into tools of production. They need to divert funds from armies into hospitals and schools; from research into means of killings into means of cure.

Jordan has been heartened by the news that finally the Syrians, Saudis, Gulf Arabs and Palestinians are all willing to sit with the Israelis, the Americans, the Soviets and the Europeans to seek peace for the peoples of the Middle East region.

What is disheartening to us, though, is that feeling or realisation that Israel is still not genuine about peace. It has put one obstacle after the other to sabotage peace efforts and dim peace prospects. The Israelis continue to say no to the PLO, no to exiled Palestinians and no to Jerusalemites. Israel should not forget that unless the PLO, the recognised representative of the Palestinian people, Palestinians in the diaspora and Jerusalem Arabs take part in the peace process, there will be no lasting peace.

A just and lasting peace can never be achieved unless the Palestinian people as a whole is involved and all dimensions of the Palestinian problem are solved once and for ever. Do Israeli leaders fail to understand this? We do not really think so. Many peace-loving Israelis have been calling for a historical settlement over Palestine for a long time now. And the mainstream Israeli leadership knows very well that unless such a historical compromise is reached with the Palestinians there will never be peace; and if there is a settlement, it will neither be just nor lasting.

It is this concept of peace that we in Jordan advocate and Israel wishes to ignore.

The Palestinians have shown willingness to relinquish their historical claim to over half of Palestine for the sake of peaceful coexistence with the Israelis. And that is perhaps Israel's best historical opportunity to legitimise its existence and safeguard the interests of its people. If Israel chooses to miss this opportunity, there will be many more Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims who will accept nothing short of liberating every inch of the Holy Land. Then Israel will have to deal with much tougher conditions and challenges than is imaginable now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Monday reaffirmed the Jordanian position with regard to the ongoing efforts to bring about peace to the region and said that the Kingdom has been the staunchest supporter of the Palestine cause and the Palestinians' efforts to regain their homeland. The paper said that the Jordanian leadership, government and people have always been committed to the Palestine question and seeking to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Jordan can by no means deal with this important question with mere slogans, as it realises the need for steadfastness and as it continues to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people, the paper noted. It said that Jordan is now dealing with the facts on the ground, but can never accept any compromise on the future of the Palestinian people and can by no means support any move to deny the Palestinians their rights and homeland. Jordan, the paper added, is keen at the same time to deny the Israelis any chance to carry out hostile manoeuvres that could be detrimental to the Palestinian or the Arab causes. The paper emphasised the need for the implementation of the international legitimacy and all U.N. resolutions based on the exchange of land for peace so that a lasting peace can be established in the region.

Now that Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens has openly announced his government's acceptance to attend a peace conference, another obstacle is removed from the path of a settlement, said Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily Monday. But, the paper noted, observers still believe there are doubts about the achievement of a peaceful settlement due to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to exchange land for peace and his total rejection of a complete Israeli pull-out from the occupied Arab lands in conformity with the international legitimacy. Despite Mr. Arens statement, the Israeli government position is not yet formally declared and everything remains shrouded with mystery, the paper said. The paper said that the U.S. and Soviet political circles are now concerned over Israel's procrastinations and delays and some observers are afraid that the Shamir government could resort to resignation and the announcement of an early general election, a move that could indefinitely delay the peace efforts. Therefore, said the paper everything depends on the U.S. administration, because if this administration is serious and determined to convene the peace conference, nothing can stand in the way.

Who attacked who in 1967 — a new improved myth

By John Law

WHATEVER happened to the words "pre-emptive strike"? For any readers who may have forgotten, this is the phrase that was traditionally used by the Israelis to explain why they attacked Egypt and Syria on June 5, 1967.

They had to do it, Israel's leaders claimed after the war, in order to forestall an imminent attack by the Arab states on Israel. Most people in the West believed this claim to be true. With constant repetition over the years, the words "pre-emptive strike" became very familiar, and their application to the 1967 war soon became a myth.

Many Western analysts, particularly those on the scene, believed from the beginning that the "pre-emptive strike" claim was spurious. The consensus was that Egypt's President Nasser had never had any intention of attacking Israel, had played into Israel's hands

by trying to score points with a dangerous game of bluff and bluster and had been genuinely surprised when Israel attacked. As more evidence came to light during the following years, it also became clear that the Israeli leaders themselves had not believed that Mr. Nasser was planning to attack. This has been acknowledged by such ex-hawks as Abba Eban and by current hawk Yitzhak Rabin (who told Le Monde in February 1968 that he was sure Mr. Nasser had not wanted war, while pointing out that the two divisions Mr. Nasser sent to Sinai on May 14, 1967 would not have been sufficient to launch an offensive against Israel). Other available documents, particularly the diaries of former Israeli Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, have since made it clear that Israel's "pre-emptive strike" had been designed to provoke a war that would provide a pretext for taking over Arab territory. Any one who

doubt that this motivation had long been present should listen to Mr. Shamir's current comments about the occupied territories.

Until recently, however, none of this evidence seemed to put any brake on the use of "pre-emptive strike" as a shorthand description for the origins of the war. It had become one of the linchpin myths, like the one about Palestine having been "barren" and "unpopulated" when the Zionists decided to move in. Those who used the myth seemed to find it useful — possibly because it sounded plausible to those not familiar with the facts, or because there seemed no other falsehood that had any chance of holding up to scrutiny. After all, the Israelis did strike first, as all the world could clearly see. So that part of the story surely had to be acknowledged. Or did it?

Apparently not. Suddenly, rick fended off an attack by all

bave disappeared from the buzz words of the American media. For many months, reference to the origins of the 1967 war has been taken over by a "new, improved" myth. According to the new version, what happened in 1967 was that "the Arab countries" attacked Israel, forcing it to respond and to take over Arab lands in the process.

It is, perhaps, not surprising that some of the regular drumbeaters for Israel now use this new myth routinely in their public statements or newspaper columns. For example, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Jean Kirkpatrick, has several times made the charge: "In 1967 Israel successfully fended off an attack by all of her Arab neighbours," or, as a variant, "Arab neighbours... launched and lost an aggressive war in 1967 against Israel." Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress has written: "If there is an analogy between

the situation in the Persian Gulf and the war of 1967, it is that in both situations Arab countries invaded a peaceful neighbour without provocation." The Washington Post climbed on the bandwagon not long ago with an editorial making the flat statement: "Israel's acquisitions of 1967 came about in response to Arab aggression..."

Harder to fathom, however, is the shift to the new myth by well known commentators who are not known as "Arab-bashers." David Newsom, former U.S. under-secretary of state, wrote a column in which he took it as a "given" that in 1967 there was "an attack on Israel by Arab countries" and added that "Washington generally supports this view." A well known journalist, the generally level-headed Strobe Talbott, editor-at-large of Time magazine, recently referred to the 1967 war as an "Arab onslaught."

This new onslaught on his-

tory makes me yearn to get back to the good old days of the myth about the "pre-emptive strike." At least it contains one element of truth — the fact that Israel struck first, even though it hides Israel's underlying motives. On the other hand, the "new, improved" myth expects people to believe that a pre-emptive strike never actually took place, that the Arabs attacked Israel, quite unprovokedly (and presumably by using those airforces that were destroyed on the ground during the first couple of bouts of the war), and did so without anyone in the world noticing, including those people who were physically present in the Arab countries (in my case, Egypt) when the war broke out. The tragedy is that the originators of this myth, just like the people who market soap and toothpaste, seem to be getting away with it. Middle East International, London.

Gulf crisis unleashed year of change for Lebanon

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — Iraq's invasion of Kuwait triggered a year of momentous change for Lebanon, long an arena where regional states and superpowers found eager proxies to play out their disputes.

On Aug. 2, 1990, the civil war which began 15 years before was raging with unrelenting ferocity. Muslims fought Muslims in south Lebanon, Christians battled Christians in Beirut, a government in West Beirut blockaded rebel Christian General Michel Aoun in the east and the Lebanese Army was split on sectarian lines.

Palestinian gunmen skirmished in refugee camps. Israeli troops and their allies clashed with guerrillas. Only Lebanese exiles fleeing chaos in Liberia dared compare Beirut to heaven.

One year later Beirut and most of Lebanon are at peace. After up to 100,000 lives, the killing has stopped except in the south and the rebuilding has begun.

More than 100,000 Lebanese who fled abroad during the war are back this summer, some Western and Japanese businessmen are returning for the first time since 1975 and gunmen are off the streets.

"Saddam Hussein cannot take credit for this," said a Western ambassador, surprised by the speed of progress. "But the invasion tipped the balance of power in the Middle East and set off a chain of reactions that brought deep changes to Lebanon."

"Probably Saddam's biggest contribution was keeping Israel busy so the United States was free to, directly or indirectly, tell Syria it could take out General Aoun by force," he added.

The Gulf crisis meant economic hardship for Lebanon.



M. KAHIL

It first made itself felt when tens of thousands of Lebanese from Iraq, Kuwait and other Gulf states came home to Beirut — at its lowest ebb in the civil war.

Officials estimate the crisis cost Lebanon \$500 million in lost capital in Kuwait alone, 25 per cent of its exports and \$50 million a month in remittances from workers in the Gulf.

But military breakthrough made possible by the Gulf crisis was shattering swift.

On the morning of Oct. 13, Syrian planes bombed Beirut. Aoun's headquarters at the pres-

idential palace which he had occupied for two years. He was forced to flee to the French embassy.

It was the first time the Syrian air force had intervened directly in the civil war. Israel, since its 1982 invasion, had enjoyed total air supremacy.

But it did not block the Syrian raid, either at Washington's request or because it no longer objected to Gen. Aoun's departure.

After Gen. Aoun fled, Syrian and Lebanese troops overran his enclave in hours, removing the

most stubborn obstacle to implementing a year-old peace plan backed by the Arab League and the West.

The United States, allied with Damascus against Iraq, enjoyed the first big dividend of its 1988 decision to cooperate with Syria to bring peace to Lebanon.

The Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi could now call on the reunited Lebanese army as well as 40,000 Syrian troops to extend its authority over most of the country.

The new alliances forged by the Gulf crisis boded ill for Leba-

non's militias. The powerful Christian Lebanese Forces, like its worst enemy Aoun, had received millions of dollars' worth of weapons from Iraq in a bid by Baghdad to sabotage Syrian influence in Lebanon. Now the supply dried up.

Without Iraqi support and with Washington in association with Syria throwing its weight behind Beirut, private armies had to grudgingly accept peace or fight a war they could never win.

Warlords ordered their men off the streets in exchange for seats in a new 30-man government.

Lebanese and Syrian troops reunited the divided capital last December without a shot being fired.

When the U.S.-led alliance finally went to war against Iraq, Lebanon could only wait impatiently to see which side would win.

Iraq's defeat in February dashed hopes of those Lebanese who still opposed the U.S.-Syrian alliance and Damascus's growing domination over their country.

All militias except the Iranian-backed Hizbollah had disbanded by May. Their mountain fiefdoms came under the control of the Lebanese Army for the first time since 1975.

Attention turned to the south. Lebanese officials, using the Gulf war argument about the sanctity of U.N. decisions, demanded Israel leave south Lebanon as mandated by a largely-ignored 1978 resolution.

Washington indicated it would press Israel to quit if all raids from Lebanon ceased. Lebanese troops moved into the south.

There they met the second biggest losers of the Gulf war, Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation — at its weakest after backing President Saddam Hussein.

The PLO refused to leave its last bases facing Israeli forces without a fight but was routed in four days in its worst military setback since 1983.

Hizbollah, ignoring calls to disarm, has stepped up guerrilla attacks on Israeli forces. But Beirut is betting on a breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli peace process or on Syria pressuring Iran to call off Hizbollah.

"Lebanon has been brought back to life. It is for the moment a largely Syrian-dominated life dependent on U.S. interest. There is little else around here now," said a Lebanese diplomat.

Rafsanjani has pulled Iran out of isolation, but rocky road ahead

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Two years after he was elected Iran's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani and the Islamic Republic are at the crossroads.

Either Mr. Rafsanjani, leader of the so-called pragmatists trying to end Iran's isolation, turns the moribund economy around before the 1993 presidential poll or the country faces the prospect of sliding back into turmoil.

If Mr. Rafsanjani cannot subdue his radical rivals and the deeply entrenched conservatives to revitalise the economy, "the alternative would most likely be a sustained period of instability," noted Shireen Hunter of Georgetown's Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Mr. Rafsanjani was elected July 28, 1989, seven weeks after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic.

Despite predictions of a violent power struggle, the transition was surprisingly smooth. But deep-rooted rivalries, which Khomeini kept in check by his undisputed authority, remain to haunt his heirs.

Mr. Khomeini's death and a national referendum that gave unprecedented powers to the presidency allowed Mr. Rafsanjani to steer Iran onto a new course, away from the rigid Islamic constraints imposed by Mr. Khomeini and towards a more open society.

Shortly before his election, he stressed with a candor that at the time was surprising: "It is impossible in today's world to be totally independent."

To the radical, anti-Western fundamentalists, who consider themselves Mr. Khomeini's true heirs, this is anathema. Anything that penetrates the hermetic Islamic shield Khomeini built around Iran dilutes the revolution, they argue.

Mr. Rafsanjani, 58, has contained his rivals and pressed ahead with his drive to open up relations with the West to attract badly needed foreign investment and access to advanced high technology to galvanise the oil-based economy.

But he has not eliminated them. He has moved many out of positions of power, but they remain within the bloated bureaucracy, eager at every turn to sabotage Mr. Rafsanjani's efforts.

"If internal bickering continues, and recent reforms remain unfulfilled, Iran faces an uncertain future and some of the pessimistic predictions made at the time of Khomeini's death may yet come to pass," Mr. Hunter noted.

Mr. Rafsanjani has succeeded in loosening some of the rigid Islamic restrictions imposed by Khomeini and divesting Iran of its extremist ideology, much to the fundamentalists' chagrin.

But he "hasn't been as successful in domestic policy as much as in foreign policy," noted Morteza Firooz, political editor of the Tehran Times, Iran's leading English-language daily.

Under Mr. Rafsanjani's guidance, Tehran has restored relations with Britain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other states.

Rebuilding bridges with the United States, which broke off links in 1979, remains a distant

prospect while Americans and other Westerners remain held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian extremists.

During the 1990-91 Gulf crisis Mr. Rafsanjani succeeded in keeping Iran neutral, despite radical pressure to side with Iraq against the Americans. He emerged with his credibility at home and abroad enhanced.

But he still faces major problems that must be overcome swiftly if the Iranian masses, arguably worse off now than they were before 1979, do not turn on him.

Central to this is getting the economy on its feet again after more than a decade of internal upheaval, abysmal mismanagement by Islamic zealots and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Foreign economic analysts conservatively estimate that the economy needs a \$100 billion overhaul.

London's Economist Intelligence Unit reported recently: "There are great risks that the weaknesses in the regime's economic policies will be exposed by falling or stagnating oil revenues, thus bringing on mass public discontent. But this is a medium-term problem."

Iran's population is growing at a rate of 3.9 per cent a year, one of the highest in the world. Since the revolution, it has swelled from 37 million to an estimated 58 million.

By the year 2020, unless the birthrate is slowed, it will reach some 140 million.

Unemployment, currently running at an estimated 25 per cent, will become a grievous problem. Even now, every year thousands of university graduates cannot



find even menial jobs.

The government insists it has reined in double-digit inflation to "only 8 per cent," and that the economy has grown by an unprecedented 10.1 per cent.

But those figures mean little to people whose buying power is less than it was in 1979, with prices moving up all the time. A recent parliamentary report

said the gap between the rich and the poor has barely narrowed since the revolution, with the upper-income 20 per cent of Iranians owning 51 per cent of the country's wealth now, compared to 49 per cent in 1979.

Officials admit privately that the system is burdened by nepotism and corruption, which the government has been unable or

unwilling to stamp out.

But most agree that Mr. Rafsanjani's outward-looking policies rather than the radical xenophobic fundamentalism of Iran's only hope for progress.

Mr. Rafsanjani is likely to have to put that to the test next spring when elections for the 279-member Majlis, or parliament, are due.

Mideast on focus at summit

(Continued from page 1)

past nine years, will mean a cut of about one third in the most threatening U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons.

Mr. Bush, holding his sixth meeting with Mr. Gorbachev since taking office in 1989 but the first in the Soviet Union, was due to arrive in Moscow Monday evening. He will confer with Mr. Gorbachev on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the 12 days since the summit was announced, the White House

has poured hundreds of people, several bomb-sniffing dogs and tonnes of equipment into the Soviet capital to prepare the meeting.

Aside from START and the speculation over a Middle East announcement, the main summit result could be U.S. trade privileges for the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials said Mr. Bush wanted to announce that he was granting Moscow its long-sought most-favoured nation (MFN) trade status, that would lower tariffs on Soviet exports.

Shamir awaits Baker's visit

(Continued from page 1)

summit but Israel said it would not reply without clarifications on the make-up of a Palestinian delegation.

"We do not owe any answers. We are expecting answers from the Americans. It is a matter of clarification," Mr. Shamir said. Hanan Ashrawi, a member of a Palestinian delegation which met Mr. Baker last week, said she had not received official word about Mr. Baker's visit but expected a meeting with him.

She urged Mr. Baker to be firm with Israel and said Palestinians were tired of unfruitful meetings with him.

"We don't want meetings just for the sake of meetings. We don't want them to become a ritual. If there is something new or serious, there is reason for it, otherwise they are counter-productive," she told Reuters.

Mr. Levy, among the more dovish members of Mr. Shamir's hawkish cabinet, left Monday for the first trip to Cairo by a senior Israeli minister in two years.

"... We must now advance to a meeting which will bring about direct negotiations and we must not, therefore, now raise difficulties, conditions or obstacles because we must not miss this opportunity," he told reporters before departing.

But, he added, "on Jerusalem our position is unequivocal."

Mr. Levy was due to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak late Monday.

Asked if he was carrying a

message from Mr. Shamir, Mr. Levy said: "Yes, regards."

"In recent days, Israel has made a big step to advance peace. It is not being delayed because of Israel," Mr. Levy told reporters after a brief airport meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa. "We are determined to remove all obstacles to peace. Let us not allow anybody to place big stones on the road to our desired goal."

Cairo's authoritative Al Ahram newspaper, which normally has access to Egyptian foreign-policy makers, reported Monday that Egypt will tell Mr. Levy that Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem must be represented.

Mr. Levy hopes he can get Cairo's assistance to ensure the peace process does not fall apart, said an Israeli source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source said Mr. Levy would ask Egypt "to keep Syria at bay," persuading Damascus to avoid noisy demands for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Egyptian leaders were considered instrumental in persuading President Hafez Al Assad of Syria to join Mr. Baker's efforts to convene a peace conference.

The Arab states that have accepted the U.S. peace initiative object, however, to Israel's continued settlement-building in the occupied territories.

Mr. Assad was quoted Sunday as saying that he does not rule out accepting the Jewish state's existence, but that "no peace can be established if one party continues to occupy another party's land."

3 SLA militamen killed

(Continued from page 2)

his fighters would keep up attacks in defiance of the government's drive to bring the south under its control.

Hizbollah holds that guerrilla war is the only way to force Israel to pull out from the "security zone," which the Jewish state set up in 1985.

The bomb exploded in the village of Deir Seir Siriane six kilometres northwest of the Israeli border and within a "security zone" controlled by Israel and the SLA.

"One of our units detonated 50 kilograms of explosives while an armoured patrol of the Zionist enemy forces and their SLA mercenaries passed on the Deir Siriane road."

"Three members of the patrol were killed and four were injured," the group said.

Security sources in Israel said three SLA militamen were killed and two wounded along with a civilian.

The SLA opened heavy guns in retaliation, sending about 50 155-mm shells crashing into the village of Zawtar Al-Sharqiyyeh. Security sources said two children

and a 19-year-old man were wounded.

Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA hold a 15-kilometre deep strip across South Lebanon and a corridor to the town of Jezzine, to the north.

The Lebanese government wants guerrilla raids against the Jewish state to cease so Washington would press Israel to leave. Israel says its troops will remain until all other foreign forces, including 40,000 Syrian troops, pull out of Lebanon.

UNIFIL mandate

Secretary-General Javier Perez Cuellar recommended Monday that the Security Council accept a request by Lebanon for a further six-month renewal of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Its current mandate expires at the end of this month and the council is expected to meet on Wednesday to extend it until Jan. 31, 1992.

UNIFIL, comprising some 5,850 men from Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Sweden, was established in 1978.

Amnesty reports Israeli torture

(Continued from page 1)

in custody waiting for their trial than if they plead guilty." There are chronic delays in trials due to inefficiencies such as defendants or prosecution witnesses not being brought to court, missing files or the absence of defence lawyers be-

cause they have not been notified of the trial date.

"Under such circumstances," Amnesty International said, "the fundamental right to a fair trial is prejudiced." The organisation is calling on the Israeli government to urgently introduce safeguards against torture and ill-treatment and to ensure fair trials.

France to push for sanction easing

(Continued from page 1)

"We are talking to our other friends and allies about this," Mr. Bush said in discussing the use of force.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the Defence Department had briefed its Gulf war allies, including Britain and France, on preliminary plans to bomb not only Iraqi nuclear sites but also "leadership," including President Saddam Hussein himself.

However, unidentified senior U.S. officials involved in day-to-day management of policy on Iraq told the newspaper that America's Gulf war allies had doubt about renewed bombing and those doubts would have to be overcome should Mr. Bush decide to use force.

"There are mixed degrees of (allied) enthusiasm, or lack of enthusiasm, but I think there is unanimity that this lying and secreting of material must stop," Mr. Bush said.

"That overrides any divisions there might be" on using force, Mr. Bush said.

The Iraqi News Agency said Monday Iraq and the United Nations have set an Aug. 15 date to begin returning to Kuwait gold and artwork taken during the Iraqi occupation.

The agency said the gold as well as Kuwaiti banknotes would be turned over at the remote border crossing of Arar on the Saudi Arabian-Iraqi border.

Quoting an unidentified Foreign Ministry official, the agency said that beginning one week later, antiquities and artwork taken from Kuwait's national museum would be returned.

The agency said the agreement was reached earlier this month during a visit to Baghdad by U.N. Undersecretary-General Dick Foran.

Agreement is also expected soon on returning a Kuwait Airways Boeing 727 and nine jet engines, the agency said, without elaborating.

British government officials meanwhile sought to defuse a controversy over exports of sensitive materials to Iraq and said Prime Minister John Major had no plans to agree to opposition demands for an inquiry.

The row erupted after weekend disclosures of a government list authorising the export to Iraq of quantities of uranium, plutonium and other materials which could be used in producing nuclear or chemical weapons.

Licences were granted up until three days after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait last year.

Government officials said Mr. Major would reply soon "in fairly robust terms" to a letter from opposition Labour Party trade and industry spokesman Gordon Brown demanding an immediate public inquiry into the alleged breaches of a U.N. arms embargo.

One official said the prime minister's reply would reject Mr. Brown's calls for an inquiry.

Moves launched against BCCI

(Continued from page 1)

and first-degree grand larceny. "BCCI was operated as a corrupt criminal organisation throughout its entire 19-year history," Mr. Morgenthau said.

"It systematically falsified its records. It knowingly allowed itself to be used to launder the illegal income of drug sellers and other criminals. And it paid bribes and kickbacks to public officials."

The affiliates charged in the indictment are Bank of Credit and Commerce International Overseas Ltd.; BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg); International Credit and Investment Co. (Overseas) Ltd.; and International Credit and Investment Co. Holdings.

Banking regulators believe BCCI has funnelled as much as \$15 billion of depositors' money into illicit activities. A score of government agencies here and abroad are investigating BCCI and congressional committees are organising hearings.

Mr. Abedi and Mr. Naqvi are among those the Fed is seeking to permanently bar from any involvement with U.S. banking organisations. The others are Hassan Mahmoud Kazmi, described as a former senior officer of a company controlled by BCCI, Kamal Adbam, Faisal Saud Al-Fulaj, A.R. Khalil, Sayed Jawhary, Ghafar R. Pharoan and Khuro Elley, each of

whom the Fed said had relationships with BCCI.

BCCI has involvements in 69 countries. Tangled in its web are a bevy of well-known and influential personalities: Former Defence Secretary Clark M. Clifford, Robert Gates, President George Bush's embattled nominee to head the CIA, Bert Lance, adviser to President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Clifford, a former presidential adviser and potent political figure, is the chairman of First American Bankshares Inc., the holding company of the Washington bank.

Others include: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, imprisoned Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega, the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Palestine guerrilla Abu Nidal, Colombia's cocaine barons.

"The bank of crooks and criminals." That's what Mr. Gates, who was deputy director of the CIA at the time, called it in a 1988 conversation with former U.S. Customs Commissioner William Von Raab.

The CIA used BCCI accounts in the 1980s to funnel secret aid to guerrillas in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and other countries, law enforcement and congressional sources have told the Associated Press.

Intelligence agencies in several other countries had links with the bank, as did extremist groups.

Future of entire Iraqi generation in peril

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The acute shortage of food and medicine is not only threatening the life of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children in the short term, but has also endangered the future of the entire Iraqi nation through rendering the younger generation of the country potentially incapable of developing physical and intellectual abilities, according to a senior U.N. official.

As far-fetched it might seem to the layman, statistics cited by Edward J. Lannert, regional director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), underline the gravity of the situation.

"Over 170,000 children under five are suffering from severe clinical malnutrition and another one million suffer from moderate malnutrition," according to Mr. Lannert.

Recent studies by independent groups have found that the 170,000 children under the age of five face certain death in one year if urgent measures are not taken to improve their health situation.

Noting that the development of brain cells requires sufficient nutrition for natural growth in the early years, Mr. Lannert pointed out that science has proven that children deprived of enough food cannot grow to their full potential not only physically, but also intellectually.

Based on these findings, unless the nutritional needs of Iraqi children are met immediately, "the physical and intellectual future of the entire Iraqi nation is at stake."

"It is a horrendous... shocking... situation. Thirty to 35,000 newborn Iraqi children are severely underweight" because their mothers are malnourished, said Mr. Lannert, who returned to Amman this week after extensive talks with officials and field visits in Iraq.

In some African and Asian countries, underweight births are an expected phenomenon as a result of a general state of malnutrition among mothers, but "such a situation should not occur in a country like Iraq," he said.

Malnutrition could also result from some of the most common diseases and lead to diminished resistance against other diseases, which could easily turn fatal or further weaken the body cells, stunting the infant's growth.

"Diarrhoea, measles and respiratory infections take away a child's appetite, inhibit absorption, burn calories and drain nutrients in diarrhoea and sickness," says the State of the World's Children Report for 1991.

International studies have proven that countries which cannot offer enough food to its people or whose populace suffer from persistent malnutrition despite the availability of food remain underdeveloped since the intellectual and physical abilities and national input of their people fall far below those of their counterparts in advanced countries.

The international community, which endorsed the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and held an impressive World Summit on Children in 1990, faces "the real test of its



An Iraqi mother with her children at an Iraqi hospital — what future awaits these children?

willingness to translate the promises it made to the world's children," Mr. Lannert said.

In Iraq, the deteriorating situation resulting from the shortage of food and medicine is further worsened by the "inability to respond" positively and check the slide, Mr. Lannert said.

Obviously, Iraq needs urgent funds to address the pressing food and health problems of its people, but the international embargo imposed against the country following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait is choking its efforts.

In addition to requesting that the U.N. Security Council allow it to sell \$1.5 billion worth of oil to meet its urgent food and medicine needs, Iraq has also approached various Western and other countries to unfreeze its bank accounts and assets.

But it has met with little success, particularly since most governments are arguing that their public and private sectors have outstanding financial claims against Iraq.

"UNICEF will try to carry the voice of the Iraqi children to the U.N. Sanctions Committee and American Congressional panels which are now considering the embargo on Iraq," Mr. Lannert said.

As the international wrangling continues, the situation in Iraq is becoming worse.

Infection and pollution are widespread in the country because most of the sewage dumping and water pumping facilities are not functioning as a result of a lack of either electricity or spare parts to repair the equipment, added Mr. Lannert, who suc-

ceeded Richard Reid as UNICEF regional director on July 1.

"Sewerages have burst and there are areas where sewage is strewn all over," Mr. Lannert said. "In many cases, ground floors of buildings cannot be used and families do their cooking on the roofs," but there is no escape from the pollution which breeds bacteria and virus conducive to epidemics, he added.

"It is the worst sanitation conditions I have ever seen in my 26 years with UNICEF," said Mr. Lannert, 51, an American.

Diarrhoea and typhoid are common among Iraqi children, and the Iraqi government has reported at least 340 cholera cases.

Independent relief workers put the total number of cholera cases at around 600, with at least 150 deaths.

Sewage clearing and the supply of clean water cannot improve as long as the authorities are unable to repair power-generating facilities and obtain vital chemicals.

"Some of the facilities are barely functioning. If any of them break down it is a foregone conclusion that they could not be repaired because of the lack of spare parts, however insignificant," Mr. Lannert said.

Iraq needs at least four tonnes of chlorine every day for water treatment. The country used to produce its own chlorine needs in addition to exporting some to Jordan before production facilities were heavily damaged during the allied bombing in the Gulf war. Now, Iraqi officials say, the country gets less than 10 per cent

of its chlorine needs.

The authorities have managed to partially mobilise sewage pumping facilities, and "Iraqi officials told me that at least one million tonnes of garbage are dumped to the River Tigris every day," Mr. Lannert said.

While garbage collection and dumping is partially restored in Baghdad and surrounding areas, the situation in other towns and cities and the countryside remains as bad as ever.

Hospitals are in urgent need of life-saving medicine, Mr. Lannert said. "Iraq's annual consumption of medicine is worth around \$500 million, but the country received less than 10 per cent of it during last year," he said.

Iraqi hospitals — or those who are functioning at all — perform only "emergency operations" in life and death situations because of an acute shortage of nitric oxide, an anaesthetic. Surgical cases such as hernia, etc are put off, Mr. Lannert said.

UNICEF has launched an "emergency" programme in Iraq. It includes supplying essential medicine, high-energy protein food, chlorine, technicians and spare parts to repair water pumping and treating equipment plants and oral rehydration salts to treat diarrhoea cases.

But, Mr. Lannert admits, this contribution is only a drop in the ocean, given the fact that the agency cannot possibly meet the needs of the 18 million Iraqis. "Unless and until Iraq is able to pay for its needs of food and medicine, the situation will continue to deteriorate," he said.

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Indurain to defend Tour de France title

PARIS (AP) — Miguel Indurain, the newest Tour de France champion, will start the defense of his title next year in his home territory as the 1992 tour starts at San Sebastian in the Basque region of Spain.

Whenever it starts, three-time champion Greg Lemond will also be there and likely will be among the favorites. This year he lost his title and for the first time in his career didn't even earn a berth on the podium as a top-three finisher.

"Next year I'll skip the classics. My objective is always to win the Tour de France," Lemond said. "As long as I'm racing, I'm going to come every time to the tour with the intention of winning it."

Indurain won the title Sunday by three minutes over Gianni Bugno of Italy, with Lemond 13 minutes behind.

Flushed by victory, Indurain also promised to be back next year. Now Indurain can be taken seriously instead of being seen as just a teammate of Pedro Delgado, the Spaniard who won the Tour de France in 1988.

Indurain improved from a 10th-place finish last year. "Last year I was there to fight for a place. But it's not the same thing when you fight to keep the 10th position than when you've won the race," Indurain said.

Fighting for the title was a new

feeling for Indurain, as was the also-ran battle fought by Lemond.

"I've learned that when you push yourself to win it's much easier than when you push yourself to lose," Lemond said.

Lemond began pushing himself in front in this tour right at the beginning and took a lead of two minutes over Indurain after the first time trial.

"Everybody in the pack was not going to give me a gift in the Tour de France," Lemond said. "Most of the people were racing against me. It's a natural thing. I won the tour three times. I took a great lead in the first stage. I was the man to beat."

The American held his advantage through the first week until the transfer from Nantes in Brittany to Pau just outside of the Pyrenees.

However, the Pyrenees inspired Indurain more than Lemond and the Spaniard knew exactly when to take advantage of the situation.

"Lemond started very fast. Our team had to work and we took the best climbers. So that is where it was possible we could take over any advantage," Indurain said.

In the Pyrenees, Indurain came in second in the stage to Val Louron. Lemond was slowed by a



Miguel Indurain

viral infection that put him seven minutes behind Indurain.

From that time, Lemond lived the most dramatic hours on his bike. After recuperating from two bad days in the Pyrenees he was down again physically and psychologically in the Alps.

"I didn't feel like riding my bike and I wanted to abandon,"

he said at the time.

Once he recuperated, Lemond said it was easier to ride, and his results showed it with victories in the 16th, 19th and 22nd stages.

He came up short in his comeback, however, but will be back next year, ready to ride. So, too, will Indurain.

Sanchez Vicario carries Spain to victory in Federation Cup

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP) — After leading Spain to its first Federation Cup title by almost single-handedly defeating the United States team, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario finally was cooled down by the winner's trophy.

Sanchez Vicario first defeated Mary Joe Fernandez in singles, then lifted her inexperienced doubles partner Conchita Martinez to victory as Spain defeated the Americans 2-1 in Sunday's final of the international team competition.

Equal parts showman and tennis superstar, Sanchez Vicario dominated the doubles match against the experienced American duo of Gigi Fernandez and Zina Garrison — and even led the crowd in cheers of "ole ole."

The only thing that cooled off Sanchez Vicario was the trophy, which was loaded with water and yellow roses. It tipped over as she

accepted it, drenching the exhausted player.

"I told them thanks for the shower," she said.

Sanchez Vicario was all over the court in doubles, smashing winners and exhorting Martinez — ranked only 105th in the world in doubles — as Spain rallied to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the rubber match of the best-of-3 series.

"After I won my singles, we knew we had a chance, but it would be difficult," Sanchez Vicario said. "We decided to just go for it."

Gigi Fernandez, ranked no. 1 in the world in doubles, said the reason for the loss was simple. "I think basically we choked. That's the biggest choke of my career by far," she said.

The Americans jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first set of the doubles, but then won only four

games the rest of the way.

"We just didn't play our game," Garrison said. "The balls were there and we missed them. Arantxa hit her shots, which is what we were supposed to do."

The American duo became so frustrated that Fernandez smashed a ball out of the stadium — earning a warning from the umpire — after missing two volleys in the last game.

Martinez finished off the victory with a volley winner between the American players. Sanchez Vicario and Martinez threw their rackets in the air and rushed to hug each other.

Spain, which lost in the 1989 Federation Cup final to the United States, prevented the Americans from winning their third consecutive title. The United States still has a record 14 Federation Cup titles.

Napoli is short of admirers

ROME (R) — Napoli have discovered that, without Diego Maradona, even cut-price tickets have little appeal.

The 1990 Italian soccer champions, deprived of the banned Argentine World Cup captain, have found their fans are definitely not rushing to buy season tickets for the 1991-92 first division championship which starts in September.

With Maradona on their books last year, they sold nearly 42,000 season tickets at their 80,000-capacity San Paolo Stadium in the poverty-stricken southern port city of Naples.

This season, despite signing ace French international sweeper Laurent Blanc to join established Brazilians Careca and Alemão and despite reducing prices in some parts of the stadium, they have sold just 13,000 season tickets to date.

While Napoli's takings amount to a paltry 5.4 billion lire (\$4.9 million), other clubs have fared better.

AC Milan, despite the setback of a year's ban from European soccer and the loss of double European Cup-winning coach Arrigo Sacchi, have 54,000 season tickets so far worth a staggering total of 25 billion lire (\$22.7 million).

Prost and Senna row while Mansell celebrates

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (R) — While Nigel Mansell celebrated the supremacy of his Williams team and his third successive Grand Prix win Sunday, world champion Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost were busy reviving their old enmity.

Brazilian Senna, who leads this year's Formula One title race, tangled with his French rival on lap 38 of the 45-lap German race dominated by Briton Mansell.

Prost, in a Ferrari, was attempting to pass Senna's McLaren, and after being blocked for several laps, attempted to go by on the outside on the approach to the first chicane.

Senna, predictably, resisted and as the space diminished, both cars braked hard, Senna giving Prost no space to pass. Prost was forced to lock up his brakes, and ended up running off the track and, after losing his engine, retiring.

Prost was furious and urged the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) to fine Senna as they had fined Mauricio Gugelmin of Brazil and Aguri Suzuki of Japan for incidents at the recent French and British Grands Prix.

"It is the same rules for everyone," he said. "He should be fined. Now that my championship chances are over, I shall do my best to help Nigel and Williams-Renault to win the title. What he did is unfair."

"And I shall have no problems in Hungary in driving against him again. If he does it again, I shall

push him off the track. I will show that I can be aggressive, too," he said.

Senna responded by blaming Prost for the incident.

"He is always complaining. Patrese got by me easily after two laps and he was faster than me. Prost just could not get by. There was no way to get past me there..."

"We could have touched then at 300 kph and if we had you would have a big impact. He could have caused it. It was a desperate move by him."

As the new Senna-Prost row simmered, reviving memories of their long-running feuds in 1989 and 1990 and the infamous incident at the first corner at Suzuka in last year's Japanese Grand Prix, the Williams team were celebrating.

For the first time since they joined forces with Renault in 1989, they had taken over at the top of the Constructors' Championship, leading McLaren by 71 points to 70.

Renault's technical director Bernard Dudot was delighted.

"It was just perfect. At the start, Nigel opened up a gap and then cleverly controlled it without risking his engine... to achieve a one-two, our second of the season, has astonished me a bit," he said.

"It is impossible to do better — now we are at the head of the Constructors' Championship and we have got a lot to do."

For Mansell, this means trying to extend his remarkable run while his chief rival, Senna, is out of form.

Defiant South African athletes say Tokyo or bust

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's athletes, poised to return to international competition, may bypass local officials whose squabbling is blocking the way back.

The republic's senior athletes, angry over a weekend decision by officials to turn down an invitation to take part in the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo next month, have threatened to form their own body and go it alone.

The South African Amateur Athletics Association (SAAA) Saturday voted not to go to Tokyo, a move which may endanger the Springboks' participation in next year's Barcelona Olympics.

"How can a bunch of administrators who represent maybe two per cent of all athletes in the

country make a decision like that?" demanded Fanie Van Zyl, a former South African mile record holder.

Van Zyl said a body representing senior athletes would soon be formed which would have the ear of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

"We have not been caught napping... I tell you we will be going to Tokyo," Van Zyl said.

He declined to name the sportsmen and women who would form the breakaway movement, but athletes including Springbok Athletics captains Dries Vorster and Myrle Bothma were said to be meeting Monday to discuss latest developments.

Chesnokov wins Canadian Open crown

MONTREAL (R) — With all the top seeds ousted from the \$1.2 million Canadian Open, the task of winning the tournament fell to 12th-seeded Andrei Chesnokov, who beat Petr Korda 3-6 6-4 6-3 in the final Sunday.

The victory marked the first time a Soviet citizen won the Canadian Open since its inception in 1929. It also gave the

32nd-ranked Chesnokov his seventh career tournament title — his first of 1991.

"I'm going to New York for dinner and, of course, I'm going to get drunk," smiled Chesnokov, who asked about his victory celebration plans.

The nosedived Korda had hoped for a chance to play fellow Czechoslovakian Ivan Lendl in the finals, but it seemed incidental who he played — dropping a 6-3 3-0 lead, with two breaks in the second set.

Chesnokov dashed the 40th-ranked Korda's dream when he eliminated the fourth-ranked Lendl in two tough sets in the semifinals. Korda eliminated second-seeded Jim Courier in the other semifinal.

While Napoli's takings amount to a paltry 5.4 billion lire (\$4.9 million), other clubs have fared better.

AC Milan, despite the setback of a year's ban from European soccer and the loss of double European Cup-winning coach Arrigo Sacchi, have 54,000 season tickets so far worth a staggering total of 25 billion lire (\$22.7 million).

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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A MATTER OF TIMING

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 8 3
♥ 7 5
♦ A J 8
♣ A 10 9 4

WEST EAST
♠ A 6 5 ♠ 9 7 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 ♥ 8 4
♦ 10 9 7 5 ♦ K Q 4 3
♣ 7 6 2 ♣ K Q J 8

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 4
♥ A K J 10 9 3
♦ 8 2
♣ 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣.

The secret of winning wars, said a Northern general during the Civil War, is to "hit the fastest with the mostest." Chess players have long known that to squander a tempo could mean the loss of a game. The same can be true in bridge if you surrender the lead to the enemy at the wrong moment.

As is often the case, South let the 100 honors overrule judgment. Having already described a good six-card suit by jumping to three hearts, there was no reason, with an essentially balanced hand, to remove three no trump to four hearts.

Played by North, three no trump would have required East-West to conduct a letter-perfect defense to lay the contract low.

Declarer won the first trick in dummy and immediately finessed the jack of hearts — the correct technical play if you consider the trump holding in isolation. West won and continued with a low diamond. East took the queen and the club shift was not difficult to find. Eventually the defenders ended up with one trick in each suit — just enough to fulfill their mission.

Declarer's mistake was in taking the heart finesse. At that point, declarer was a tempo ahead and South should have maintained the timing by spurning the finesse in favor of cashing the ace and king of trumps. When the queen does not fall, declarer must abandon trumps and go about setting up a long spade.

The defenders can take the ace of spades whenever they like and score a diamond trick, but they won't get a club as the cards lie. Declarer can win the ace of clubs and take a club discard on the long spade as West ruffs. For this line to succeed, declarer needs either to drop a singleton or doubleton queen of hearts, or to find a 3-3 spade break or the defender with the master trump to hold four or more spades as well. Without delving into the percentages, that feels to be superior to a straight finesse.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Project what you feel and think as well as what you wish to do about it as you get ready to expand in various new outlets making as many allies as possible. Watch the cash flow.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can make real headway early to gain your most desirable objectives but later you find you are thwarted by both family and those in a high position.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You would be wise to carry through with that preparation for the future that you have been putting off and then later you are able to gain the data you need.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your longtime good friends have it in their power to give you the push you want in the right direction, then carry through later on your own.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An official who demands a lot nevertheless is able to give you some real push in a worldly direction early after which you get matters handled.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A longtime associate can give you some valuable suggestions early but later attend to all bills and obligations facing you meticulously.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever projects you have to do should be done now so spend

your time and energy on it and do nothing to dissuade any associate from their part.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now find you can have a happy day if you avoid spending more than you can afford on some temporary pleasure that really doesn't mean much to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you like the most to do can be best put aside until another time while you carry through with that what you have promised partner you will do.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let those with whom you have usual contact be aware that you are the one who will get out and do the things that require attention.

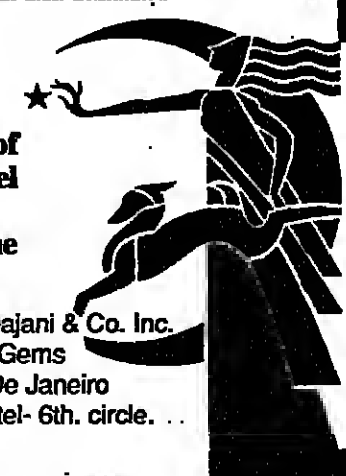
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Now you would be wise in financial importance in you should be done now without further ado so get busy and arrange financial affairs as you wish them to be.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Now you would be wise in go after that vital wish early after which you can carry through in a pretty casual fashion to gain other objectives.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have so many little things to get behind you before you will be able to go forward that you would be wise to do so right now without delay.

Survive pressures of inflation, look & feel good. Buy your birth stone from:

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Jewelers - Gems
Amman - Rio De Janeiro
Amman - Amra Hotel - 6th circle.



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUPPE
CHACO
LOMBAG
YONDOB

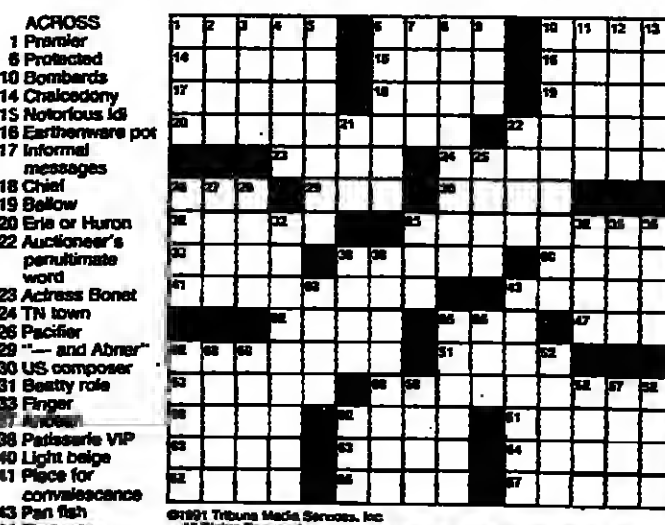


WHAT A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A MAN AND HIS WIFE SOMETIMES IS.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: LIVEN CHAFE UNRULY FRAGAS
Answer: The hoodlum was too young to drive, so he only stole cars... WITH CHAUFFEURS.

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Across | 2 Across | 3 Across | 4 Across | 5 Across | 6 Across | 7 Across | 8 Across | 9 Across | 10 Across | 11 Across | 12 Across | 13 Across | 14 Across | 15 Across | 16 Across | 17 Across | 18 Across | 19 Across | 20 Across | 21 Across | 22 Across | 23 Across | 24 Across | 25 Across | 26 Across | 27 Across | 28 Across | 29 Across | 30 Across | 31 Across | 32 Across | 33 Across | 34 Across | 35 Across | 36 Across | 37 Across | 38 Across | 39 Across | 40 Across | 41 Across |
| 1 Across | 2 Across | 3 Across | 4 Across | 5 Across | 6 Across | 7 Across | 8 Across | 9 Across | 10 Across | 11 Across | 12 Across | 13 Across | 14 Across | 15 Across | 16 Across | 17 Across | 18 Across | 19 Across | 20 Across | 21 Across | 22 Across | 23 Across | 24 Across | 25 Across | 26 Across | 27 Across | 28 Across | 29 Across | 30 Across | 31 Across | 32 Across | 33 Across | 34 Across | 35 Across | 36 Across | 37 Across | 38 Across | 39 Across | 40 Across | 41 Across |

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close Date: 26/7/1991 | Tokyo Close Date: 29/7/1991 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.6820 | 1.6765 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.7440 | 1.7515 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5227 | 1.5280 |
| French Franc | 5.9340 | 5.9655 |
| Japanese Yen | 137.60 | 138.19 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.7775 | 1.7707 |

USD Per STD
European Opening of STD a.m. GMT

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.67 | 5.93 | 6.16 | 6.56 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.57 | 10.67 | 10.81 | 10.75 |
| Deutsche Mark | 6.90 | 9.18 | 9.37 | 9.33 |
| Swiss Franc | 7.62 | 7.81 | 7.51 | 7.68 |
| French Franc | 9.50 | 9.50 | 9.54 | 9.68 |
| Japanese Yen | 7.37 | 7.37 | 7.16 | 5.95 |
| European Currency Unit | 9.81 | 9.93 | 10.06 | 10.06 |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

| Precious Metals | | | Date: 29/7/1991 | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm ^o | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
| Gold | 570.50 | 7.60 | Silver | 4.11 | .095 |

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 29/7/1991

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | .687 | .689 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1499 | 1.1524 |
| Deutsche Mark | .3914 | .3934 |
| Swiss Franc | .4485 | .4507 |
| French Franc | .1151 | .1157 |
| Japanese Yen | .0066 | .0067 |
| Dutch Guilder | .3473 | .3490 |
| Swedish Krona | .1090 | .1095 |
| Italian Lira | .0524 | .0527 |
| Belgian Franc | .01901 | .01911 |

Other Currencies Date: 24/7/1991

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7850 | 1.7950 |
| Lebanese Lira | .0770 | .0790 |
| Saudi Riyal | .1829 | .1826 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | - | - |
| Qatari Riyal | .1860 | .1865 |
| Egyptian Pound | .1950 | .2160 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7500 | 1.7600 |
| UAE Dirham | .1860 | .1865 |
| Greek Drachma | .3440 | .3640 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4150 | 1.4450 |

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

| Index | 27/7/1991 Close | 28/7/1991 Close |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All-Share | 115.35 | 110.61 |
| Banking Sector | 106.07 | 105.64 |
| Insurance Sector | 119.57 | 119.35 |
| Industry Sector | 115.62 | 115.40 |
| Services Sector | 127.30 | 127.10 |

December 31, 1990 - 100

OECD sees Canada's GDP rebounding, inflation abating

OTTAWA (R) — Canada will experience a moderate economic rebound and lower inflation next year but unemployment will still top 10 per cent of the work force, the OECD has said.

But separatist threats from predominantly French-speaking Quebec province and current efforts to prevent the country from fragmenting jeopardise that outlook, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its half-yearly report.

"Canada's constitutional problems are a major source of uncertainty surrounding the outlook, as they could lead to financial-market nervousness and significant changes to the country's fiscal structure," the report said. Led by weakening domestic demand in response to high interest rates, economic decline accelerated in late 1990 and early 1991 when the U.S. economy, the major customer for Canadian exports, also entered recession.

But the 24-nation Paris-based organisation, which publishes a review of its members' economic performance twice a year, said there were signs Canada was emerging from recession and forecast gross domestic product (GDP) would rise 3.1 per cent in 1992.

That is a jump from a decline of one per cent expected this year and up from 0.9 per cent growth last year.

"Exports are projected to make the most important contribution to economic growth up to mid-1992," it said. "An upswing in the United States, along with continued expansion in overseas economies, is expected to lead to a rebound in export-market growth."

As such, Canada's trade sur-

plus is expected to rise to 11 billion dollars (\$12.3 billion) 1992 from an anticipated 13 billion dollars (\$11.4 billion) this year and 9.8 billion dollars (\$8.6 billion) in 1990.

And the current account deficit, the broadest measure of international payments, is expected to shrink to nine billion dollars (\$7.9 billion) next year from 10 billion dollars (\$8.8 billion) in 1991 and 1990's 13.7 billion dollars (\$12 billion).

Unemployment is forecast to remain at 10.1 per cent next year, almost the same as that expected this year and compared with last year's level of 8.1 per cent.

The time lag between the economy improving and businesses hiring workers again, coupled with slowing demands for wage increases, is expected to bring inflation down.

Japan brokers paid favoured clients \$930m

TOKYO (R) — Japan's top four brokerages paid 231 companies, public bodies and individuals 128.3 billion yen (\$930 million) to cover their market losses, according to a list of names released Monday detailing the spreading financial scandal.

The Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA), a self-regulatory body for the securities industry, unveiled a list of Japan's largest and most prestigious corporations that were improperly compensated for market losses by the big four over the 30 months up to March 1990.

The big four brokers — Nomura Securities Co. Ltd., Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd., Nikko Securities Co. Ltd., and Yamaichi Securities Co. Ltd. — reimbursed firms such as giant car makers Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. and electronics leaders Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. and Hitachi Ltd., according to the list.

The scandal over the loss-covering and revelations that Nomura and Nikko had links to gangsters has shaken the Tokyo stock market and already led to the resignation of Nikko's president and the chairman and president of Nomura, Japan's largest brokerage, whose part in the scandal is revived almost daily with new developments.

Promising to cover clients' investment losses is against the law. Doing so after losses are incurred is not illegal, but violates a 1989 finance ministry directive.

The health and welfare ministry's Pension Welfare Service Public Corp., a government body, topped the list of compensated investors with a whopping 4.9 billion yen (\$35.5 million), according to the JSDA list.

Next was Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K. at 4.3 billion yen (\$31.8 million), followed by Hitachi at 2.17 billion yen (\$15.75 million), the JSDA said.

Three individuals who received

BCCI in Colombo reopens under Sri Lankan managers

COLOMBO (R) — The Colombo branch of the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), closed since July 5 after a worldwide failure, reopened Monday under the management of a Sri Lankan Bank.

There were no queues or large-scale withdrawals, as some banking sources had expected.

"Business is as usual. Depositors have learnt to trust us," said Lalith Kotalawala, chairman of Seylan Bank.

Seylan, Sri Lanka's newest privately-owned bank, took over the management of BCCI Colombo under an agreement signed with the central bank last week.

Mr. Kotalawala said last week that his bank guaranteed all Sri Lankan deposits but there was nothing they could do about foreign assets which had been frozen in the bank's Cayman Islands head office.

Banking sources in Colombo said it was the first instance of BCCI branches being handed to a local bank to manage after being taken over by a central bank.

BCCI spanned 69 nations and held \$20 billion in deposits. Investors say the fraud could involve from \$4 to \$15 billion, up to three-quarters of BCCI assets. Seylan General Manager Rohan Perera said about 2.1 million rupees (\$52,500) were withdrawn in BCCI Colombo's first hour of business Monday.

"It is about the normal withdrawal on any day," he said. Seylan officials have been meeting some of BCCI's 2,000 corporate and individual clients and assuring them that there is no need for apprehension.

"Your money is safe now. There is no need for panic," said Mr. Kotalawala.

Jordan Times

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Kuwait ships first crude since invasion

Iraq ready to export 1m barrels of oil a day

JAKARTA (R) — Iraq has the capacity to export a million barrels of oil a day the moment the United Nations revokes trade sanctions, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, Mohammad Sa'eed Al Sahaf, said Monday.

Mr. Sahaf told reporters after meeting Indonesia's President Suharto that most of the oil facilities damaged during the Gulf war with the United States and its allies had been repaired.

"We are ready to export oil, the moment the (U.N.) allows us," Mr. Sahaf said after delivering a letter to President Suharto from President Saddam Hussein.

"Now our capacity, roughly speaking, is a little less than one million barrels a day and we are (further) developing our capacity," he said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said in an interview published Sunday that his government saw no problems in reopening its export pipelines to Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

He told Reuters last month that Iraq hoped to be producing its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 3.2 million barrels a day by the end of next year.

Just before Iraq invaded Kuwait last August and its quota was suspended, the country had an export quota of 3.14 million barrels a day.

Mr. Sahaf described as immoral the sanctions which have blocked Iraq's trade with the world for nearly a year. The sanctions were imposed by the United Nations in

response to the invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

"Now the situation in our country is back to normal, we are working actively to rebuild our country, the only real obstacle are the sanctions," Mr. Sahaf said.

He said the sanctions were causing food and medicine shortages in Iraq.

Iraq has asked the U.N. to ease the embargo so it can sell oil to buy food and medicine. The U.N. Security Council is examining the request but some members say safeguards are needed to make sure Baghdad does not divert food from the needy.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Sunday shipped two million barrels of crude oil, becoming an exporter for the first time since Iraq's invasion almost a year ago.

The supertanker Thorness left Mina Al Ahmadi oil terminal south of Kuwait City at midday Sunday en route to western Europe. Oil Minister Hamoud Abdulla Al Ragha said other tankers would pick up crude at a rate of one every seven to 10 days.

"I am very happy to see this day. Our Kuwaiti people and their friends did a tremendous job to achieve this in such a very short time," Sheikh Ragha had told reporters aboard Thorness Saturday.

The loss of oil exports had deprived Kuwait of its main source of hard currency earnings, forcing it to seek billions of dollars in foreign borrowing to finance post-war reconstruction.

Oil wells around this terminal are still burning out of control, a poignant reminder of Iraq's invasion. Wrecked cars and shattered buildings also deface the once bustling port.

Sheikh Ragha said 249 wells out of 600 set alight or left gushing by troops had been capped as of Friday.

The emirate is currently producing 115,000 barrels of oil a day. This excludes the estimated daily output of 200,000 barrels from the Neutral Zone which Kuwait shares with Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait was pumping about two million barrels of crude a day before the Iraqi invasion.

Sheikh Ragha said the invasion had caused up to \$75 billion worth of damage to the oil industry, including lost production.

The emirate has been importing refined products but Sheikh Ragha said Kuwait's refineries would be able to meet domestic needs by the end of September.

Five U.S. and two Canadian firms have been battling the fires since March and up to 16 fire-fighting teams will be working by the middle of August, officials say.

Sheikh Ragha said most wells would be capped by next March but the cost of putting out the fires could reach \$1 billion.

More than 30 ships have mounted a major-mine clearing operation in the Gulf. Naval officials said earlier all shipping lanes would be clear by the end of this month.

Egyptian paper urges Arabs to withdraw funds from West over BCCI

CAIRO (R) — A leading Egyptian newspaper urged Arabs Monday to bring back billions of dollars of investments from the West, saying the closure of scandal-hit BCCI was part of an anti-Arab campaign.

"We believe it (the Bank of Credit and Commerce International affair) is an indication for all expatriate Arab funds and investments that whatever they do to serve the West, they will be met with racial positions," the semi-official Al-Ahram said in an editorial.

"Although it (BCCI) has committed some irregularities, they were much less than and incomparable with the irregularities of big banks in all Western states, which makes the ferocious attack difficult to explain," the paper added.

"This attack is not void of a racial inclination against all that is Arab. This bank was mostly owned by the United Arab Emirates after it raised its stake in it last year to 77 per cent."

"It is better and honourable for these funds to return to the Arab World to take part in building its revival and development in a climate safer than the West or elsewhere," the paper concluded.

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's trade deficit in the first five months of the year shrank by nearly 19 per cent compared to the same period of 1990, according to official figures.

The deficit fell to 542 million dinars from 668 million (\$542 million from \$668 million); a fall of 18.9 per cent.

The improvement was mainly due to a surge in food exports.

During the period, export earnings covered 72.2 per cent of the cost of imports, compared to 64.5 per cent in the first five months of last year.

IMF chief calls for solidarity with Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Michel Camdessus said Sunday Algeria had requested new loans to help service its debt.

He also recommended commercial banks should help Algeria, which he said was taking a courageous attitude by continuing to repay its debts and refusing to request rescheduling.

Algeria has debt servicing payments of \$8 billion to make in 1991 out of a total national debt of \$25 billion.

Mr. Camdessus told a news conference Algeria was asking international banks for new credits to cover part of the debt repayments.

"We say to commercial banks that they should also help Algeria... by being faithful partners and maintaining their support if they want Algeria to be able to continue honouring its debt," he said.

The IMF director-general said Algeria had asked "foreign banks to accord them new credits which correspond roughly to capital repayments."

He said the IMF, which recently granted Algeria a \$100 million standby credit, would recommend the country's economic efforts to the World Bank and the European Community.



Michel Camdessus

Ali Hammoudi, Algeria's IMF representative, told Reuters the World Bank last month approved a \$350 million loan programme for Algeria to recapitalize the country's banking sector and rationalise 22 public sector companies.

Unemployment in Czechoslovakia may top 1m soon

PRAGUE (AP) — The number of jobless reached 223,200 or 2.9 per cent of Czechoslovakia's workforce in April and could spiral to about 800,000 this year, a government official has said.

Labour Minister Petr Miller told federal parliament that unemployment was rising fast especially

in the eastern republic of Slovakia, where 116,000 people, or 4.6 per cent of the Slovak workforce, were seeking unemployment benefits, the state CTK news agency reported. Mr. Miller also warned that over 200,000 young people will leave school this year, putting further pressure on the job market, CTK said.

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EC ministers gloomy as talks with Yugoslav leaders begin

BRUSSELS (R) — Yugoslav leaders met European Community (EC) officials Monday to find ways of ending the bloodbath in their country.

But EC foreign ministers voiced little hope that they would be able to end the violence in Croatia as they did earlier this month in the breakaway Republic of Slovenia.

"They are on the verge of civil war. We'll do our best but I'm not very optimistic," Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez told reporters.

Belgium's Mark Eyskens said he was not "very optimistic" because the situation is deteriorating.

The EC ministers were due to meet Prime Minister Ante Markovic, Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and two members of Yugoslavia's collective presidency after lunch.

The 12 EC ministers are debating options ranging from sending another ministerial delegation to Yugoslavia to increasing the number of EC observers in the troubled country.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said he supported the idea of sending troops from EC states to act as a buffer force in Croatia, where Serbian guerrillas seem to be gaining the upper hand against ethnic Croats in fighting that left several dozen dead at the weekend.

But France, which had floated the idea originally, appeared to be backing down in the face of likely opposition from other states including the Netherlands, which was chairing the talks as current EC president.

"We're not there yet, not yet," said Daniel Bernard, spokesman for French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The EC's own internal disagreements surfaced again as Germany expressed bitterness at the fact that other states had not gone along with its call for representatives of the troubled breakaway republics to be invited to the talks in Brussels.

"We will have to find out today who was responsible for the fact that not all republics are represented, above all not Croatia.

Serbia or Slovenia," German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told German Radio. "Because it is a fact that a solution can only be found if the representatives of the republics are included," he said.

Mr. Genscher, like several of his colleagues, called for a reinforcement of a team of 50 EC observers sent to Slovenia early this month to monitor an EC brokered ceasefire between the federal army and the breakaway republic.

Mr. Bernard said France wanted a "major increase" in the number of observers but would not mention a figure.

Croatian demonstrators rallied outside EC headquarters as the Yugoslav leaders arrived, demanding that their republic be allowed to break away from the rest of Yugoslavia.

Police estimated the number of demonstrators at 1,500.

Meanwhile, Yugoslavs are learning to their horror how quickly fear, terror and mistrust can change them.

"Two weeks ago I thought I

could not shoot someone even under the threat of death, but now I think, why shouldn't I?" school teacher Vladimir Cakaric, a Croat, said Sunday.

"It is terrifying to see how one can change."

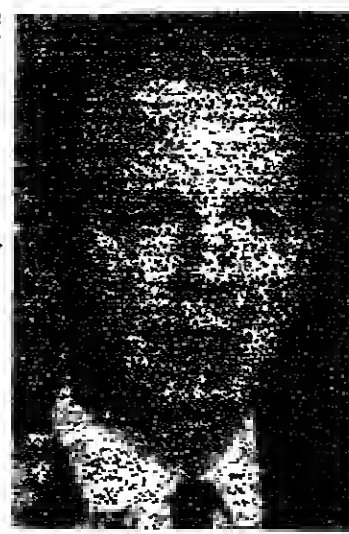
Ms. Cakaric, 39, lives in the ethnically mixed Croatian town of Petrinja, 60 kilometres south-east of the Croatian capital of Zagreb.

Escalating ethnic violence in the region between the local Roman Catholic militias and Christian Orthodox Serb guerrillas has been creeping towards the village for weeks.

The guerrillas have driven hundreds of mainly Croatian villagers from their nearby homes. Dozens of people have been killed in fighting in the area since Friday.

Over the weekend the region's violence caught up with Petrinja, which until then was considered a haven for the hundreds of villagers who fled indiscriminate machinegun attacks and mortar shelling elsewhere.

Now Petrinja is on the front line. Refugees and inhabitants alike are moving out.



James Baker

Baker praises Mongolian democratic reforms

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Mongolia Monday promising to rally international aid for the country that is teetering on the brink of economic collapse after starting political and economic reforms.

"We will continue to try and engender international support for Mongolia's reform efforts," Mr. Baker told reporters before leaving Ulan Bator for Moscow and the U.S.-Soviet summit.

"I am pleased to see that the Mongolian leadership as well as the opposition appears to be committed to continuing the process of political and economic reform," he said.

Mr. Baker, who arrived in Ulan Bator Thursday, became the first Western statesman to give a speech to Mongolia's parliament and made a private trip to the south Gobi Desert to observe nomadic camel herders and exotic wildlife.

In his speech Friday, Mr. Baker offered \$2.4 million in technical assistance this year and \$4 million next year.

He said he would ask U.S. Congress to approve \$10 million in additional aid to help to tide Mongolia over its current economic straits.

"I can only urge you to stay the course," Mr. Baker told the joint session of parliament.

Mongolia's minister of foreign relations, Tserenpilyin Gombosuren, said he was very pleased with Mr. Baker's visit.

"Mr. Baker's visit was successful, the development of relations is an extremely important task of our new foreign policy," he told reporters Monday.

"Our country is facing serious economic problems. It is very important for us that Mr. Baker gave his assurances to speed up the U.S. help to Mongolia and to intensify efforts at engendering the help and support of international financial and economic institutions," Mr. Gombosuren said.

Armenian government calls its men to arms

MOSCOW (R) — Separatist Armenia accused Soviet forces and the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan of conducting an undeclared war against it and urged volunteers possessing weapons to report for duty, Soviet News Agency (TASS) has said.

While tensions rose in the southern republics, elite Soviet police attacked an internal customs post in the independence-seeking Baltic republics, underlining President Mikhail Gorbachev's problems on the eve of a Moscow superpower summit.

TASS said the Armenian parliament's Defence Committee told men with weapons Saturday to report to local authorities by Monday evening "for registration and to receive assignments."

It gave no details how they might serve, but it said those men with weapons but too ill or unable to serve should at least register their arms.

"The Soviet Union and Azerbaijan are conducting an undeclared war against the Armenian people and a solution of the question by purely political means is impossible today," the Defence Committee's statement said.

Armenia refuses to send conscripts to the Soviet army and is forming its own defence force.

An aide of nationalist President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said the statement did not represent a general mobilisation but the republic wanted to register all arms available in case of conflict.

"There is nothing surprising or extraordinary about this when you consider the circumstances we face," said the aide, Alexander Arzumanyan.

Armenia, now seeking independence from the Soviet Union, and Azerbaijan have been embroiled for three years in a bloody conflict over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

Nagorno-Karabakh is populated largely by Armenians who want to transfer to Armenian rule and hundreds of people have been killed in clashes in and around the territory and on the Azerbaijan-Armenian border.

Armenia says Azerbaijani forces have been systematically driving Armenian minorities out of Azerbaijan with the help of Soviet Interior Ministry troops.

"Now the Soviet forces have promised to leave. We can handle our own defence," Mr. Arzumanyan said.

The Defence Department in the Baltic Republic of Lithuania, which like Armenia is seeking independence from Moscow, said elite Soviet Omon Police raided a customs post set up by the nationalist government.

It said the Omon, which has carried out more than two dozen similar attacks in the last three months, set fire to the post at Salociai and beat up an official.

The Soviet Union regards such customs posts as an illegal demonstration of independence.

Troops advance to besieged Sri Lankan camp

COLOMBO (R) — A relief force killed 60 Tamil rebels in their battle against minefields, unfamiliar terrain and fierce resistance to reach a Sri Lankan army camp under rebel siege for 20 days, a military spokesman said Monday.

"The advance is very slow, but we are achieving some progress," he said.

In Sunday's fighting, 60 rebels and six soldiers were killed. He said 30 soldiers were wounded.

The battle has been described

as the biggest of the 10-year-old ethnic war.

The relief column has been inching its way toward the 800-man army garrison at Elephant Pass that has been under attack from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam since July 10.

Officials put the death toll so far since the new round of fighting began at 1,170 rebels and 143 soldiers.

The Tigers, fighting for a separate state in the north and east for minority Tamils, have been

pounding the camp with rocket-propelled grenades, mortar bombs and small arms fire.

The camp, connect the northern Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the island.

Rebels launched five massive assaults on the camp Saturday in which at least 150 rebels and seven soldiers died, the spokesman said.

The casualties and extent of the fighting could not be verified with independent sources or with the Tigers.

Americans think Gorbachev is not sure bet — poll

NEW YORK (AP) — Sixty per cent of Americans in an Associated Press poll said they believe Mikhail Gorbachev wants to bring about meaningful reform in the Soviet Union, and a majority supports giving him favourable trading terms.

Those findings would make a cheerful backdrop for the superpower summit that brought President George Bush to Moscow Monday, except that only a quarter of those polled expect the Soviet president to succeed with reform.

Just a third of those surveyed favour U.S. aid to Moscow, and even fewer say their feelings toward the Soviet Union are generally favourable.

"With the decline of the military power of the Soviet Union a lot of people are saying, 'let them stew in their own juice. There's a lot of that out there,'" said Henry F. Graff, a Columbia University professor who specialises in the presidency and U.S. diplomatic history.

Feelings toward the Soviet Union were described as generally favourable by 28 per cent, generally unfavourable by 11 per cent and neutral by 56 per cent.

The poll taken by ICR survey research group interviewed a random sample of 1,007 adults by phone on July 19-23. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Pacific leaders worry about environment

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (AP) — Leaders of the 15-nation South Pacific Forum opened their annual summit Monday, troubled by mounting environmental problems that threaten the region's idyllic lifestyle.

Global warming, overfishing by foreign crews, nuclear testing and the disposal of toxic wastes were all issues of concern at the two-day meeting of these remote island nations.

What galls officials the most is that islanders had little if anything to do with the creation of these problems.

Under umbrellas to protect against tropical showers, officials were greeted with traditional island pomp at a government complex on Pohnpei, halfway between Honolulu and Manila.

Men in grass skirts wore bananas festooned with fern fronds as they pounded drums. The island leaders served bowls of Sakau, also known as Kava, a potent, mouth-numbing intoxicant made from pepper plant roots.

Meanwhile, officials also announced the Cook Islands will host a forum meeting in November on surviving in the 21st century. The low-lying islands could become uninhabitable if ocean levels rise from the greenhouse effect.

Other volatile issues include nuclear testing in French Polynesia, driftnet fishing by foreign crews, and the suggestion by some countries outside the region to use the remote islands to dump toxic waste.

In addition, officials worry about the safety of the prototype U.S. chemical-weapons destruction plant at Johnston Atoll and the prospect of a leak from deteriorating World War II-era weapons waiting to be destroyed.

The meeting also focuses on economic development, energy, trade, regional security, drug trafficking and political issues.

It groups Australia and New Zealand with the independent, self-governing island nations of the Pacific: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

The meeting will be followed by talks Thursday and Friday between the forum and the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Canada, China and the European Community (EC).

Madagascar protesters call on Ratsiraka to quit

ANTANANARIVO (R) — Thousands of anti-government protesters, spurning concessions made by Madagascar President Didier Ratsiraka, massed in the capital Monday and called on him to resign.

"Down with Ratsiraka's bloody and authoritarian rule" and "Ratsiraka, out" read banners hoisted aloft by demonstrators who poured into May 13 square in Antananarivo.

The rally, which opposition leaders were due to address later Monday, followed an announcement by 54-year-old Ratsiraka that he was sacking his government and organising a referendum on a new constitution.

A former navy officer who took power at the head of a ruling military junta in 1975, Mr. Ratsiraka extended an olive branch to the opposition Sunday night after a seven-week campaign of strikes and protests.

But the verdict of the crowd that massed in the capital seemed to be that his concessions did not go far enough.

In a radio broadcast to the nation, he proposed talks with opposition leaders on reforms to the electoral code.

Electoral reform is one of the main demands of the opposition whose campaign, launched on June 10, has plunged the Indian Ocean island into turmoil.

But Mr. Ratsiraka, who began his rule as a radical Marxist and switched course during the 1980s in favour of a market economy, gave no hint in his speech Sunday that he was prepared to step down.

He declared a state of emergency and clamped a night curfew on the city last Tuesday in a vain attempt to curb the protests.

Diplomats said while opposition leaders might be prepared to negotiate with Mr. Ratsiraka in the wake of his concessions, the crowds might continue to press for him to step down.

"Earlier this month, when the leaders wanted to talk and call off their strike, the crowd turned them down," one Western diplomat said.

It's Mikhail and George now, but it wasn't always so

WASHINGTON (AP) — They call each other Mikhail and George and banter easily. But they weren't always on a first-name basis and their fellowship now is a far cry from where the relationship started.

Six weeks before his January 1989 inauguration, U.S. President-elect George Bush had a testy exchange with Mikhail Gorbachev on Governor's Island in New York harbour. Mr. Bush asked the Soviet president sceptically what assurances he could give that his economic and political reforms would succeed.

"Not even Jesus Christ knows the answer to that question," Mr. Gorbachev snapped.

The episode darkened the mood of the Dec. 7, 1988, farewell meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and outgoing President Ronald Reagan. And it set a grim tone for the developing relationship between Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Bush's attitude towards Mr. Gorbachev was one of mistrust and doubt. He privately told associates that Mr. Reagan had been taken in by the charming and polished Soviet leader. Mr. Bush's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, dismissed Mr. Gorbachev as "a drugstore cowboy" playing "a PR game."

Mr. Bush characterised his attitude as one of prudence. A frustrated Gorbachev, meanwhile, was complaining to leaders in Europe that Mr. Bush was slowing momentum in East-West relations and dragging his feet on proposals to cut conventional arms in Europe.

Gradually, Mr. Bush's attitude began to change. He was profoundly moved by Mr. Gorbachev's willingness to allow the

Communist empire in Eastern Europe to collapse.

"I think he deserves new thinking," Mr. Bush told North American Treaty Organisation leaders in 1989. "It absolutely mandates new thinking."

Amid storm gales in the Mediterranean, Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev held their first summit aboard a ship at Malta in December 1989. The mood was somewhat stiff. Seven months later, the two leaders met again, this time in Washington and at the nearby presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland.

Mr. Gorbachev pitched horseshoes with Mr. Bush at Camp David and bit a ringer with his first throw. White House officials say the informal meeting was an important icebreaker and put the two leaders on a first-name basis. Four months later, the two leaders met again, this time to forge an alliance in the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Bush was gratified by Mr. Gorbachev's supportive stand and their bond deepened, officials say.

"They have an easy, relaxed relationship with each other and they talk really with pretty complete frankness," said Brent Scowcroft, the president's national security adviser. "It has become that way progressively since they have been meeting."

Mr. Scowcroft continued, "in terms of personal interaction, the relationship is really quite good." It remains so despite occasional setbacks — such as last winter's military crackdown in the Baltics or Soviet attempts to sidestep the limits of already-ratified arms agreements. Aside from some muted criticism, Mr. Bush has been reluctant to do anything that

might sour relations.

Some critics have suggested that Mr. Bush is putting too much stock in Mr. Gorbachev but the U.S. president has not been swayed.

After talks with Mr. Gorbachev in London two weeks ago, Mr. Bush offered unserved praise for the Soviet leader. He said Mr. Gorbachev was attempting "to reorient the entire economy and the social fabric of his country. He's shown enormous leadership in forging ahead with these plans."

Many people think the goodwill from Mr. Bush gives Mr. Gorbachev prestige at home, where his countrymen blame him for food shortages, rising unemployment and a generally dismal economic plight.

"What he (Gorbachev) gets out of this summit is the international spotlight," said Michael Mandelbaum of the Council on Foreign Relations.

"What he gets is the chance to demonstrate — or at least to argue to his own people — that he continues to be indispensable, if only because he is their passport to the rest of the world. He is the man who can deal with the West and with Mr. Bush," Mr. Mandelbaum said.

"And he also reminds people, not just in the West but in his own country, that there is still business to be done that can be best done by the centre, business having to do with arms control," Mr. Mandelbaum said.

A senior U.S. official who has watched the two leaders interact said Mr. Bush regards Mr. Gorbachev both as friend and foe. "I think 'friend' in the kind of personal sense, in the sense of where he thinks Mr. Gorbachev

is going and what he is trying to do," the official said.

"But he's always mindful of the fact they still have 10,000 nuclear warheads pointed at the United States. And as long as that sort of underlies the relationship, it's awfully hard to do some kinds of things that the other part — friend — would lead to. It's a complex period."

Bush to visit Kiev

Meanwhile workmen are hanging banners, mowing grass, repaving roads and painting buildings to spruce up the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, for the first visit by an American president to the Soviet heartland.

But a more significant transformation already has taken place: Thousands of signs on stores and offices have changed from Russian to Ukrainian in the past year as independence sentiment has grown in the second largest Soviet republic.

Mr. Bush flies to Kiev Thursday after two days of meetings with Mr. Gorbachev. He plans only a brief visit, but it is an important gesture to a republic that could determine the fate of the Soviet Union.

The Ukrainian parliament is divided on whether to sign Mr. Gorbachev's proposed union treaty and has put off a vote until fall. If the Ukraine joins the Baltics, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova in rejecting the treaty, Mr. Gorbachev's chances of holding the country together will sink.

Although Mr. Bush is not offering any material aid, ordinary Ukrainians are optimistic his trip will bring them more than just fresh paint and newly filled potholes.

"We are so poor. Why can't we live like Americans? Why can't we have private property?" Klavdia Sergeyeva, 78, said Sunday. "I think Mr. Bush will support us."

Stealing a page from Mr. Gorbachev's book, Mr. Bush plans to move freely through Kiev and mingle with crowds. Teams of U.S. Secret Service agents arrived last week to provide security.

The president will see an ancient and beautiful city, graced by the gentle curves and high banks of the Dniepr River. Chestnut and cherry trees line Kiev's broad avenues, and it is renowned for its onion-domed churches — particularly the 11th century St. Sophia's Cathedral, which Mr. Bush may visit.

Kiev is called the "Mother of Russia" because Russian civilisation traces its roots back to the Kievan princes who conquered neighbouring tribes and introduced Christianity in the 10th century.

No amount of sprucing up, however, will be able to hide the city's recent tragic history. The 1986 explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, just 100 kilometres northwest of Kiev, spewed radiation across the republic, which produces nearly a quarter of the Soviet Union's agricultural goods.

The official claim that only 31 or 32 people died in the disaster is widely disputed in the Ukraine. Chernobyl helped give rise to the Ukrainian independence movement by reinforcing a widespread belief among the republic's 52 million people that the Kremlin cares little about their lives. Kiev, a city of more than 2.5

million people, lost much of its spirit in the accident. Residents say they used to be able to trade a Kiev apartment for a similar one anywhere in the Soviet Union, including Moscow or Leningrad. Now they can make an even swap for living space only in the Soviet Union's grimmest industrial cities.

At the central Bessarabsky Farmer's Market, vendors must submit their produce for radioactive testing each morning.

Everywhere Mr. Bush goes, he may see evidence of the change in attitude toward the Soviet Union. Along the Khreshchatik, Kiev's main boulevard, blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags fly from buildings.

A red granite statue of Lenin still dominates October Revolution Square, which Mr. Bush will pass on his way to parliament. But most residents now call it Independence Square and remember it as the site of a student hunger strike last fall.

St. Sophia's Cathedral officially belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church, but the long-banned Ukrainian Catholic Church now uses it as well.

When Mr. Bush's motorcade enters and leaves the city on its way from and to Borispol Airport, he will pass a glistening 58-metre stainless steel statue of a woman holding a sword and shield. Known as the Motherland Monument, it was once portrayed as the Soviet equivalent of the Statue of Liberty and visited by the hordes of school children.

Today, it is revered both for its severe Socialist-realist style and as a symbol of Soviet power. Ukrainians are fond of pointing out that the sword and shield face north, toward Moscow.

COLUMN

'Bats are good. Bats are our friends'

ROCKVILLE, (AP) — Forget what you've heard about bats being blood-sucking vampires, winged harbingers of death and all that stuff, say Tom Valega and Heidi Hughes. The truth is that bats are cuddly, friendly little critters who work furiously every night, all summer long, gobbling up mosquitoes and other backyard pests that make life miserable for humans, the married couple says. Although bats have gotten a bum rap in Western culture for centuries, the Chinese are more enlightened. Their word for bat is "Fu," which means good luck. "If you look at a bat eyeball-to-eyeball, you can't help but fall in love with them, they're so cute," says Ms. Hughes, who keeps a couple of furry brown bats as house pets. "They're marvelous creatures and they do great and wonderful things," said Mr. Valega. "If they are ever exterminated, we'd be in dire straits." By day, Mr. Valega is a grants administrator at the National Institute of Dental Research. By night, he's "the bat man" of Rockville, rescuing bats trapped in neighbouring homes and leading twilight hikes through this Washington, D.C. suburb in search of bats and owls. Mr. Valega became a bat enthusiast when he met his wife, the owner of a bird supply store in Rockville who fell in love with bats nearly 20 years ago.

Little has changed with the Carringtons

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been two years since Dynasty left the air, but little has changed with the Carringtons of Denver. "We are still groomed, groomed within an inch of our lives," says Joan Collins in the Aug. 5 issue of People. Ms. Collins, who played conniving Alexis, and the rest of the family are taping Dynasty: The Miniseries. The four-hour sequel, to air on ABC in October, will wrap up the loose ends left when the series was unceremoniously cancelled in May 1989. Among those returning: Linda Evans (Krystle), John James (Jeff), Emma Samms (Fallon), Heather Lockley (Sammy Jo) and Al Corley (the original Steven). "We wanted to end Dynasty with the same kind of dignity we had when we were on the air," said John Forsythe, who played the family patriarch. But the producers also promise a few less-decorous moments. "Unfortunately, the thing people remember about this show is the catfights," Ms. Collins said.

Ershad had 18 affairs

DHAKA (R) — Deposed Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, serving a 10-year jail term for keeping unauthorised firearms, bad affairs with 18 women during his nine years in power, the government has said. Disclosing the list of women in an affidavit before the high court, the Home (Interior) Ministry, said they wielded "extraordinary influence in the government because of their proximity to the head of the state." The ministry also said Gen. Ershad had made a false declaration in January 1983 that his adopted seven-year-old son, Shaad, was his real offspring. In fact the child still did not know who his real parents were. "Such an act of suppression is a crime against humanity," the affidavit said. Attorney-general Aminul Huq submitted the affidavit to the high court to oppose a petition by Gen. Ershad challenging his imprisonment.

TV station to decide future of Pee-Wee reruns

SARASOTA, Florida (AP) — A television network says it is weighing whether to drop Saturday-morning reruns of Pee-Wee's Playhouse after the star of the children's show was arrested on charges of indecent exposure in an adult movie theatre. Paul Reubens, the 38-year-old actor who became a star as the nerdy, bow-tied Pee-Wee Herman, was arrested Friday after an undercover officer saw him masturbate, sheriff's officers said. He was freed on \$219 bail. The Emmy-winning Pee-Wee's Playhouse was canceled in April, but reruns are scheduled through August, said Ann Morfogen, CBS-TV vice president of media relations. She said the network would decide Monday whether to drop the reruns. If convicted, Reubens could get up to two months in jail and a \$500 fine. Arraignments were set for Aug. 9. Three other people were arrested separately at the theatre, which was showing Nancy Nurse, Turn Up The Heat and Tiger Shark.